Sunday, September 9, 2012 ★★ 13 sections / Vol. 27 / No. 273 P20 | Mobile Alerts: Text INQ DB BREAKING to 4407 | www.inquirer.net Twitter: @inquirerdotnet

PHILIPPINE Sunday INQUIRER

A GATHERING OF GENERATIONS Filipino fashion designers, from the stalwarts to the emerging talents, the Inquirer Lifestyle Face-Off 2012 showed the vibrant range of the creativity and craftsmanship of the Filipino. The Samsung bridal fashion show at Dusit Thani Manila topped 18 designers—the biggest bridal collection in years. They presented their individual statements—from the classic and romantic (Maggie Cordero, far left), the laid-back and resort-feel (Ronald Arnaldo, second from left), the Filipina modern (Cary Santiago, second from right) to the avant-bohéme and young (James Reyes, far right). Staged with Look Magazine and Champion Infinity, it had a Filipino bridal heritage exhibit that displayed the famous wedding gowns of Pitoy Moreno for Susan Roces and Marlon Macapagal, and of Ben Farrales.

P-Noy ordered lockdown

Miriam seeks probe of Puno's 'unique authority'

By Gil Cabacungan, Norman Bordadora and TJ Burgonio

PRESIDENT Aquino last night confirmed that he ordered the offices of Interior Secretary Jesse Robredo locked down immediately after the Cabinet official's plane crashed on Aug. 18, and gave that task to Interior Undersecretary Rico Puno.

Mr. Aquino explained that it was "logical" that Puno would handle it since there were only two Interior undersecretaries and Puno was in charge of police matters.

His disclosure confirmed earlier statements by a police officer who was with Puno when the latter tried to enter Robredo's condominium and who said the lockdown order came from the President.

P-NOY, A21

Robredo opened probe into Puno's P600-M ammo project / A21

Paje: Robredo 'confronted' antilogging head

By DJ Yap

MONDAY, weeks before his death, Interior Secretary Jesse Robredo "confronted" the head of the government's anti-illegal logging task force about the latter's meeting with people with logging interests in Caraga, Environment Secretary Ramon Paje said yesterday.

According to Paje, Robredo

PAJE, A21

APEC HOST Russian President Vladimir Putin greets President Aquino at the 20th Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit in Vladivostok on Saturday.

P12.6B set for 20M poor PhilHealth beneficiaries

By Norman Bordadora

PRESIDENT Aquino has allocated P12.61 billion in the proposed national budget for 2013 to fund PhilHealth premiums of poor families, Sen. Franklin Drilon said on Friday.

If approved by Congress, some 5.3 million poor families—or more than 20 million beneficiaries—will have access to free medical treatment in government hospitals starting next year.

Drilon is the chair of the Senate committee on finance now conducting hearings on the government expenditure program for 2013.

These families would be identified through the National Household Targeting System of the government.

"The 2013 budget provides for P12.61 billion to secure the

P12.6B BUDGET

P-Noy to meet Chinese leader today; territorial row on agenda

By Gil Cabacungan

VLADIVOSTOK—President Aquino will hold talks with Chinese President Hu Jintao on the sidelines of the 20th Asia-Pacific Economic Conference (Apec) Leaders' Summit here on Sunday and the discussions could cover their countries' territorial disputes, according to the Philippines' top diplomat.

Foreign Affairs Secretary Albert del Rosario told reporters on Saturday that the time and date of Mr. Aquino's meeting with Hu had not been set but it would most likely be held on Sunday.

Del Rosario said there was no fixed agenda for the meeting, but the talks would likely touch on the disputes between the Philippines and China over some islands in the Spratly chain and the Panatag Shoal (Scarborough Shoal) in the West Philippine Sea (South

P-NOY, A20

Asia-Pacific leaders urged to build bridges, not walls / A20

Living well to get to be 105 yrs old even with diabetes

By Kate Pedroso
Inquirer Research

COPENHAGEN—With their bright smiles and infectious sense of humor, one would be hard put to know that Camilla Rosell and Betsy Schatz have been living with diabetes for several decades.

Recently, Rosell marked a special milestone: "I reached my 30th anniversary with diabetes this year and I invited my friends and family to champagne brunch just to celebrate," she said.

LIVING, A6

1st woman judge rich in milk of kindness

By Ana Leah Saraldo
Contributor

AS A YOUNG girl from a well-to-do Laguna family Natividad Almeda-Lopez would invite ragged and poor strangers into her home, appealing to her parents for food, clothes, and even jobs, for her "guests."

"The first woman judge, the first woman justice of the Court of Appeals, one of the foremost leaders in the feminist movement, she was a consistent exponent of social justice in the interpretation of law," wrote the National Historical Institute in its citation.

Almeda Lopez's charitable works and trailblazing career as a lawyer, judge and women's rights advocate are kept alive by La Protectora de la Infancia, which marked her 120th birth anniversary on Sept. 8.

Although she had a privileged upbringing, schooled in music and the arts and the sporting skills of shooting, fencing and horseback riding—unusual occupations for girls of her era—Almeda-Lopez grew up with a strong sense of

FIRST, A21

China extends cruise route to Spratlys: On your right is Scarborough

By Terra Quimando

A CITY in southern China plans to extend a tourist route to the disputed Spratly islands in the West Philippines Sea (South China Sea), a move that could ease tensions among countries in the region with rival territorial claims in the strategic waterway.

Tourism is globally recognized as a non-

CHINA, A20

WHAT'S INSIDE

SPORTS • **After** 40 years, Azkals topple Singapore **ENTERTAINMENT** • **Gay** celeb smitten with security guard • Critics in Venice say Nora Aunor in 'Thy Womb' 'immense, expressive, engaging' **LIFESTYLE** • **Why** this new Makati building is a design marvel in the 21st century • The man who gives away rocking chairs to malls, restos, lounges for seniors' use **NEWS** • **Oldest** World War II veteran dies at 111 • A day after the Democratic convention, it's still the economy • 'Fringe science' in health policy debate • From 'basurera' to ballerina • Silicon Valley comes to Manila, Cebu

WEATHER FORECAST

TODAY: Palawan, Visayas and Mindanao will have mostly sunny skies with scattered thunderstorms and isolated showers. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated thunderstorms or isolated showers; mostly fair in the afternoon or evening

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Mostly Cloudy
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Mostly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Mostly Cloudy
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Mostly Cloudy
Puerto Princesa	Partly Cloudy	Cotabato	Mostly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Mostly Cloudy
Legaspi	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Mostly Cloudy
Kalayaan	Mostly Cloudy	Surigao	Mostly Cloudy

TEMPERATURE: Manila, 24°C to 32°C; Baguio, 17°C to 25°C; Tuguegarao, 23°C to 33°C; Legazpi, 24°C to 31°C; Puerto Princesa, 25°C to 32°C; Tagaytay, 23°C to 29°C; Legaspi, 24°C to 31°C; Kalayaan, 25°C to 31°C; Iloilo/Bacolod, 25°C to 32°C; Davao, 24°C to 32°C; Cebu, 25°C to 32°C; Tacloban, 25°C to 32°C; Cotabato, 24°C to 32°C; Zamboanga, 25°C to 32°C; Cagayan de Oro, 24°C to 32°C; Surigao, 24°C to 32°C

Second FRONTPAGE

PCSO 2D 6 3 0 7 1 8
PCSO 3D 3 7 24 25 27 35
PCSO SUPER 6/55 P6,979,752.80
PCSO GRAND LOTTO 6/55 1 18 27 29 40 45
P246,984,321.60

LOTTO: TUES 9pm LOTTO, results on MAY. P3.50 plus

Palace draws line on scrapping pills

By TJ Burgonio and Leila Salaverria

MALACAÑANG is agreeable to "watering down" the reproductive health (RH) bill to craft a compromise version but not to the point of scrapping provisions on the promotion and funding of contraceptives such as pills and condom, officials said yesterday.

Secretary Manuel Mamba, chief of the Presidential Legislative Liaison Office (PLLO) that acts as the bridge between the executive branch and Congress, admitted that administration lawmakers were bending backwards to accommodate amendments and save the bill.

"As much as possible they want to accommodate the bill but only up to a point," Mamba said by phone, referring to President Aquino's allies in the House of Representatives.

Mamba said there were "revolving proposals" from some lawmakers to water it down to the point of scrapping provisions that seek to promote and finance contraceptives.

"I don't think the Palace will agree to that. That's practically gutting nothing," he said, indicating that the provision on contraceptives was nonnegotiable.

It is bad to compromise with the Catholic bishops, House leaders broached the idea of repealing the provision on contraceptives. Instead of prioritizing the use of contraceptives as a remedy, it was suggested that the bill make contraceptives available only to the "poorest of the poor."

"That's tantamount to class legislation," Mamba pointed out.

The legislative committees on the government to promote contraceptives and educate all Filipinos on family planning.

Gov. Pia Cayetano, principal author of the Senate version of the RH bill, had introduced amendments deleting an exact subsection, which Majority Leader Vicente Sotto III said could be used to effectively legalize abortion in the country.

The proposed replacing the controversial subsection with a direct statement: "Abortion is a criminal act in accordance with existing laws."

On the inclusion of certain birth control devices in the list of essential drugs, Cayetano proposed that the bill simply state that the Philippine National Drug Formulary System be observed in including or excluding birth control supplies in the essential drugs list. "In accordance with existing practice."

Both amendments were approved unanimously.

Mamba said he would not know how far Mr. Aquino would go in rally lawmakers to muster the votes necessary to approve it legislatively.

"I really don't know how far the President will intervene. He has said his piece," he said, referring to the meeting convened by Mr. Aquino and attended by House lawmakers in August before they overwhelmingly voted to end the period of interpellations and move to the period amendments on the bill.

With some allies opposed to the measure and given the proximity of the 2013 midterm elections, suppor for the measure in the House was not as solid as before, Mamba said.

"They won't bring it to a vote unless they have the numbers. I don't know where it will go. But it's a priority measure. The President really wants it," he said.

In the Senate, Mamba believes the administration has the numbers to approve the measure, but has to deal with Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile and Sotto who are fervently opposed to the bill.

"That's the problem," he said.

Alvin Ang, Ethel Logarta, one of the authors of the RH bill, yesterday called for passing the controversial measure in a vote, regardless of whether the opponents were satisfied with the latest incarnation of it.

Lagman said that even with compromises, the bill was already acceptable to majority of Filipinos. "The RH bill in its present form has been acceptable to the overwhelming majority of Filipinos as documented consistently by periodic surveys with 75 percent of Catholics endorsing the bill," he said.

'Saying it in Pilipino is still plagiarism'

ANG Mistaen Debrosas Zamora, a long-time academic in the field of law, doesn't buy Senate Majority Leader Vicente Sotto III's defense that speaking in Filipino gets him off the hook from charges he plagiarized English passages from a speech by the late Ed Cox. Robert F. Kennedy.

"Plagiarism remains plagiarism. I'm not in the academe, whether you translate it or not, whether you interpret or not, it makes no difference. You have to attribute," Santiago said in a news conference following a speaking engagement on Saturday.

"In this event, the Cox Speech event, he can be allowed a certain freedom, although I wish that he would adopt the general attitude that it's always best to attribute whether it's quotific or general," she said.

Sotto once again received criticism last week for speaking in Filipino when he came to caution against the reproductive health (RH) bill contained a Pilipino translation of passages from a speech the late Kennedy delivered in 1960. The alleged plagiarism was pointed out "forensically" by Sotto's spokesperson.

On the RH bill—the subject of Sotto's supposedly plagiarized speeches, Santiago challenged her colleagues to just put the measure to a vote.

"Stop all dilatory tactics. Stop the filibusters," Santiago said.

"Let us come to a vote. I challenge my colleagues in the Senate and even in the House. Let us come to a formal vote on the RH bill itself," said Santiago, one of the authors of the RH bill.

Santiago said the lawmakers had been debating the issue for too long, even depriving Congress of its "precious time."

Santiago said that if the pro-RH lawmakers like herself lose the vote, then they will just have to accept it based on the rules.

"The same goes for the anti-RH advocates if the bill manages to muster enough votes," she said.

Santiago urged the Filipino public that this is an all-night debate, that they should again be saddled in the next Congress," Santiago said. *Norman Bordadora*

Greenpeace urges halt to GMO rice

By DJ Yap

THE ENVIRONMENTAL group Greenpeace is demanding a halt to field trials of genetically modified "golden rice" in Northern Luzon, Southern Tagalog and Caraballo Sur, saying the variety carries environmental and health risks.

Greenpeace said field trials of the genetically enriched rice, proposed as a solution to vitamin-A deficiency among Filipino children, were being held in the three provinces at the urging of the International Rice Research Institute and the Philippine Rice Research Institute.

"Open field trials of golden rice are now currently ongoing in Nueva Ecija, Davao Oriental and Calamansi Inc. exposing controversial rice crops to GMO (genetically modified organism) contamination," the group said in a statement.

"The term golden rice golden pigs might be Filipino children," said Daniel Ocampo, senior agriculture campaigner for Greenpeace Southeast Asia.

He was alluding to a recent scientific publication that suggested that researchers, backed by the US Department of Agriculture, fed experimental genetically engineered golden rice to 24 children in China (*agriculture.com*, 4 years old).

"Should we allow ourselves to be subjects in an experiment?" Ocampo said.

SIDE MEET WITH SINGAPORE President Aquino exchanges views with Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong (left) during a bilateral meeting on the sidelines of the 20th Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (Apec) Leaders' Summit in Vladivostok, Russia, on Saturday. This year's Apec summit theme is "Integrate to Grow, Innovate to Prosper." Apec leaders will discuss four priority issues, namely, trade and investment liberalization and regional economic integration, strengthening food security, establishing reliable supply chains, and cooperation to foster innovative growth. With Mr. Aquino are Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima, Socioeconomic Planning Secretary Arsenio Balisacan and Energy Secretary Jose Rene Almendras. Malacañang photo

Pinoys take part in Swiss biotech camp

TWO FILIPINO professionals represented the Philippines in the recent annual International Biotechnology Leadership Camp (BioCamp) sponsored by Novartis in Basel, Switzerland.

The BioCamp, which started on Sept. 2009, was a three-day program bringing biotechnology and business experts together with 60 selected students from leading international universities in 25 countries and territories.

The program is designed to help students understand trends and challenges in the biotechnology and life sciences sectors as well as gain first-hand experience about starting and running a biotech company. BioCamp has helped bridge local communities and build connections to aid future collaborations in research and clinical development.

This year, Novartis BioCamp stressed increased access to healthcare and the importance of research and development in emerging markets.

Ruth Guzman from the University of the Philippines and Hermes L. Lee '96 from Ateneo de Manila University represented the Philippines at the Bio Camp.

Guzman is a BS Biology graduate of UP Diliman and obtained her MS in biology (major in Cell and Molecular Biology) from the same institution.

He is a cum laude BS Chemistry graduate (Financial Distinction) of SOMCE who finished his MS in Chemistry (DOST Scholar) at the same institution.

Novartis endeavors to commit more to sustained investment in R&D to develop targeted therapies that could change the practices of medicine and deliver the highest benefit for patients.

Oldest Filipino war vet was disciplined to the end at 111

By Armand Galang and Kristine Angeles
Inquirer Central Luzon

BONGABON, Nueva Ecija—Until his death at a record age at the age of 111, Alfonso Ramos lived by the discipline and lifestyle of a warrior even as he never ceased telling his family of how great it was to fight for one's country.

"I could see the genuineness of joy in their eyes as we attended publicity stage of war veterans," Ella Gonzales said of the time when her husband with his family in Barangay Calaanan in this eastern Nueva Ecija town since the early 1990s.

Ramos, a Philippine Army private under the United States Armed Forces in the Far East (Usafe) in December 1941, died of pneumonia on Aug. 6. The Philippine Veterans Affairs Office (PVAO) had cited Ramos, who was born in Bulacan, La Union, on Feb. 13, 1901, as the oldest Filipino war veteran.

Gonzales said her father would tell them about all the risks, and fears, of being in the frontline during the Japanese siege in Bataan.

Ramos, then 41, and his group managed to escape before the American-led forces surrendered to the Japanese Imperial Army in Bataan in April 1942.

He subsequently joined the guerrillas in Central Luzon who fought the Japanese soldiers until 1945.

In an interview in May, Ramos told the Inquirer that he joined the guerrillas and Bataan's fall only after he was convinced into the army by a certain Lieutenant Delagio during the war.

"I was given a rifle and bullets to defend Bataan," he said.

"We were in Kapunduhan (Lucena) reporting with the American soldiers when the war ended," Ramos said.

Gonzales said her father endured all kinds of hardships during the war. "He told us that while on the run, from Corregidor to Cagsai, they would eat whatever edible leaves they could find when they were hungry," Gonzales said.

"They would drink their own urine that was squeezed from their drenched clothes or dew on leaves," she added.

"But he was always told us that there is no greater feeling than serving one's country," said Gonzales, 51, the youngest of Ramos' four surviving children.

Ramos' other children are Florencio, 73; Florencia, 66, and Gloria, 64.

After the war, Ramos focused on raising his family with wife, Estefania, and became a farmer in Nueva Ecija. His wife died in 2008 at the age of 86.

Gonzales said her father preferred food gathered from the wild and observed strict rules in almost everything.

"He preferred wild animals like monitor lizards (tuyawak) and native deer (usa). When it came to fish, he preferred gabe (dye) caught in the river," Gonzales said.

IN THIS photo (above) of May, Filipino veterans affairs officer Paquito Ochoa Jr. (left) awards Ramos the Philippine Veterans Affairs Office medal.

Ramos developed poor eyesight in his later years, he would insist in going with his children to the market so he could search and touch the fish and count the money he would get.

"He would not eat fish or meat that he had not chosen himself," Gonzales said.

She said her father loved to walk around the house but did not like to be assisted.

Ramos' only complaints before his death were his aching pains in his leg because of rheumatism, she said.

He usually slept at 8 p.m., then would wake up three hours later to drink coffee, chew his ngunga (betel nut) and smoke two to three cigarettes. He would then go back to sleep and wake up at 4 a.m. and drink another cup of coffee," Gonzales said. "He prayed daily and slept in a hammock for long hours during the daytime," she said.

A soldier, Ramos had maintained obedience in his children and taught them to spend their money wisely.

Gonzales said her father received a monthly pension of P6,200 from the Philippine government.

"He always brought him to the mall after getting his pension from a government bank in Cabanatuan City. He always asked for praise as before for his meal in the mall," she said.

Gonzales said her father had been able to save enough to buy a Toyota Innova in Nueva Ecija but just as replace the fund by his Mendiola Deluxe van.

Ramos was also receiving a monthly pension of $1,500 (P63,181) from the US government, of which $400 (P16,314) was retained by the US Embassy in Manila as his savings.

During his birthday in February this year, PVAO Administrator Ernesto Carolina acknowledged Ramos as the oldest living Filipino war veteran.

7 Pinoys get Ramadan reprieve; 98 others win case

By Tarra Quismundo and Tina Santos

THREE are seven Filipinos among the prisoners Saudi Arabia has pardoned as part of the month-long observance of Ramadan, the Embassy of Saudi Arabia in Manila said this weekend.

The names of those pardoned and details about their offenses, however, were not released.

In a statement, the embassy said Saudi King Abdullah has abolished all of Saudi-issued royal clemency for the release of prisoners in different jails in the kingdom, among them, seven Filipinos incarcerated for various criminal offenses.

In a statement to the Inquirer, the Saudi Embassy said: "The clemency distinguishes the kingdom from the rest of the world as it preserves the family unity and social relationships and makes those it covers feel the forbearance of Islam."

Filipinos were included in the clemency "in view of the cordial ties between Saudi Arabia and the Philippines and due to humanitarian considerations" and reflects "the importance of strengthening the friendship between the two countries," the Saudi Embassy statement added.

Ramadan is a season of goodwill, pardon and mercy and its coming comes the lifting of the partially remitting from the offense committed," the statement also said.

Ramadan was observed around the world this year from July 20 to Aug. 18.

The Philippine government estimates there are over a million Filipinos working in Saudi Arabia.

The Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) had another piece of good news earlier that: Eighty-two of the 98 overseas Filipino workers who filed a labor case—and won—in a Saudi labor court against their employers, the Al Bawardi Company, for nonpayment of wages and end-of-service benefits are expected home soon.

Labor Secretary Rosalinda Baldoz said the company's owner, Abdulrahman al Bajdi, visited the Philippine Overseas Labor Office (POLO) the other day to discuss how to fast-track the repatriation of the workers.

The 98 OFWs filed a case in September 2011 against their employer, Al Bawardi, a company engaged in construction. According to DOLE, the company reportedly experienced labor problems in 2007 when it suffered financial losses because of poor management.

Baldoz said the visit of Al Bajdi was a follow-up to an earlier meeting with Saudi Assistant Minister of Labor Hamoud al Hudaithi on Sept. 1.

"During that meeting with the Saudi labor official, Mr. Al Bajdi committed to send home 81 of the 98 workers within this month," said Baldoz, citing the update report of Riyadh-based labor attaché Alberto Valeriano.

In his report, Valeriano said Al Bajdi also promised to settle what was due the remaining 20 workers who had not yet received their end-of-service benefits.

According to Valeriano, the day after the Polo visit of Al Bajdi, three representatives of the workers, accompanied by Welfare Officer Leonardo Rodrigo Jr., went to the Al Bawardi office where they met with company officials.

"In that meeting, the officials informed the workers' representatives that Al Bawardi had already applied for the exit visas of 51 workers who are on the priority list the Polo had submitted during Ramadan.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Sunday - September 9, 2012
23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Is 35:4-7a

Have courage, do not fear

Say to those who are afraid: "Have courage, do not fear. See, your God comes, drawing near for vengeance, with terrible recompense he comes to save you." Then will the eyes of the blind be opened and the ears of the deaf unsealed. Then will the lame leap as a hart and the tongue of the dumb sing and shout. For water will break out in the wilderness, and streams in the steppe. The burning ground will become a pool, the arid land springs of water. In the haunts where jackals lie will grow tall grass with reeds and rushes.

2nd Reading: Jas 2:1-5

He did not judge the poor

My brothers and sisters, if you truly believe in our glorified Lord, Jesus Christ, you will not discriminate between persons. Suppose a person enters the synagogue where you are assembled, dressed magnificently and wearing a gold ring, at the same time a poor person comes dressed in rags. If you bestow your attention on the well-dressed and say "Come and sit in the best seat," while to the poor one you say "Stay standing or else sit down at my feet," have you not, in fact, made a distinction between the two? I hear you, my beloved brothers and sisters, did God not choose the poor of this world to receive the riches of faith and to inherit the kingdom which he has promised to those who love him?

Gospel: Mk 7:31-37

He rejoiced!

Again Jesus set out, from the vicinity of Tyre he passed through Sidon and skirting the sea of Galilee he came to the territory of Decapolis. There others of men who also had difficulty responding were brought to him. They asked Jesus to lay his hand upon him. Jesus took him apart from the crowd, put his fingers into the man's ears and touched his tongue with spittle. Then, looking up to heaven, he groaned and said to him, "Ephphetha," that is, "Be opened." And his ears were opened, his tongue was loosened, and he began to speak clearly. Jesus ordered them not to tell anyone, but the more he insisted on this, the more they proclaimed it. The people were completely astonished and said, "He has done all things well; he makes the deaf hear and the dumb speak."

Reflection

Read
- Mark 7:31-37 How does his power by healing deaf and dumb ones.

Reflect
- Why is healing so prominent in this gospel? Does the church continue this ministry? Do you?

Act
- Sometimes people miss the signs of the presence of God. Pray that your eyes be always open to God's presence, especially in the world and in others.

Pray
- Meet a miracle with Jesus by witnessing to him. Allow your good deeds to be signs of God's presence.

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Gold Pendants ..... up to P53,000	Gold Pens ..... up to P17,000	Gold Brooches ..... up to P44,000
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SANTACRUZAN FOR LOLAS AND LOLOS

Living well to get to be 105 yrs old even with diabetes

From page A1

"I think I'll live to be 105 years old," she said.

Bondi, 35, was diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes when she was 4, while Schatz, 63, was diagnosed with Type 2 diabetes when he was 26.

In the sharing session that was laced with laughter and jokes, Bondi and Schatz told anecdotes about their lives as diabetics.

"I love to challenge myself and my diabetes—just because I can," Bondi said, adding that when she was younger, she felt excluded by her condition. "Right now, I love to travel and to go on nutritional trips just because I can, and because I have learned so much about myself and my diabetes," she said.

Despite suffering an illness that has driven dad to lifelong medications and suffering a series of complications, their outlook on life remains so positive as ever.

"Right now, I think my life is amazing," said Bondi, a social education specialising in sports who deals with children aged 1 to 6 years. She organises a group of journalists from all over the world at Bonsi Diabetes Centre here last week.

In Type 1 diabetes, the body's immune system destroys insulin-producing cells in the pancreas. In the absence of insulin in the body, blood sugar level must be controlled by regular insulin treatment. Only about 5 to 15 percent of diabetics have Type 1 diabetes, and roughly half of them are diagnosed before they reach the age of 20.

Majority of diabetics suffer from Type 2 diabetes, where there is an increase in the level of sugar in the blood because the body produces less than ideal levels of insulin or has developed insulin resistance because of obesity.

"I really love my life. And that's despite the fact that I'm, justly right off, I have reduced kidney functions, high blood pressure, high cholesterol and some other exciting things that my diabetes has given me throughout the years," Bondi added, smiling. She currently has an insulin pump, which supplies her body with a insulin every few minutes.

Speaking at the same event, Schatz, a former teacher, said he needed to take some 20 pills every day and is currently on two different types of insulin.

"Over the years, I have developed a wide range of complications. I have elevated cholesterol and reduced kidney functions. I have only a third of my kidney function left," he said.

Bondi and Schatz are among the more than 6,000 diabetes patients being treated at Bonsi Diabetes Centre, which is run by Denmark-based diabetes care company and pharmaceutical firm Novo Nordisk and the Capital Region of Copenhagen.

Like Bondi, Schatz also enjoys traveling, but it is something he did not discover until after he was released for months by Chance disease, a rare diabetic complication that features the collapse of small bones in the foot. With the disease keeping him out of work for many months, Schatz was soon dismissed from the job he had held for 30 years.

"I found my job, I loved teaching. I used to tell my pupils and colleagues about diabetes all the time," he said. "My world broke down. I felt my world was just so, cruel. But then, I got a second life," he added.

After being dismissed from his job, he soon found a new hobby —travel photography.

"I went with my family on a trip to India, buying our tickets from a small travel agency. When we got back, we went to ground for the first time ... we made a book of our travel photos for the travel agency. They were impressed with the photos and they told me they wanted me to take photos for them," he said.

"That was a complete change in my life. Suddenly, I was a travel photographer," Schatz said.

Since then, he has traveled to Russia (Moscow), Thailand, Peru and Ecuador. "They showed me this bright new world. The people who live out there. They don't have the same values, and not as much money but they are so happy with what they have. It was a completely different world, and it made me a new person," he said.

Despite having a support system, family, and everything was smooth sailing for Bondi, who confessed as a "rebellious phase" as a teenager being with a difficult ailment.

"At the hospital, I was always yelled at because my blood sugar was not good enough," she said.

When she was about 11 or 14, Bondi decided that if she didn't take her insulin or measure her blood sugar, she would be "normal like everybody else."

It was a move that proved nearly fatal. At a graduation party when she was 15, Bondi "fainted" to take her insulin and presented to—birth history. "I got really really sick. I puked for three days and my parents noticed that this was not just a hangover, so they took me to the hospital.

"At the hospital, they told me that if I had come about two hours later I would have gone into a coma and wouldn't have woken up. That was quite a shock," she said.

When Bondi was in college, Stockholm's warning her about her cholesterol levels, blood pressure and her eyes. "I had just moved away from home. I thought I could take care of that myself," she said. She ended up needing surgery for her eyes.

"After six months in hotel, I came home and turned blind for a year," she said. "I started my education being blind, which was quite hard. Imagine waking up, and you can only see white and dark. You have to eat breakfast, shower, choose clothes, and you can't see. So it was quite a challenge. I broke plates, walked into doors, took the wrong trains and buses, and bought the wrong grocery," she said.

On top of these challenges, she also had schooling to deal with. "How can you study when you can't read? I had my books read to me on tapes," she said.

But she eventually had six eye operations. To Bondi, each surgery felt like a new life. "Every time I had an operation, it was like I had to teach myself to go again. It felt like I'm starting over and saying to myself, 'OK, this is what I can do today.' Every time I felt I got stronger."

After six operations, Bondi is now partly sighted and was able to graduate and get a job. "I even have a license to drive," she said.

Her three decades-long "adventure" with diabetes has given Bondi a wide array of experiences—from supporting her last transfer action during a trip with friends in Prague, to being mistakenly accused by airport security in Egypt who mistook her "insulin pump" as "bomb."

"I have learned a lot about living with diabetes, like being strong and asking questions like, 'How can I make my diabetes better?'" said Bondi, who also loves to run and go around the city or her mountain bike.

"I do it because I can. I have doing it. I just believe that most. I have found the key to adjust my diabetes to my life," she said.

And what if a diabetes-cure were to be discovered tomorrow?

"I believe that my diabetes has made me who I am today. So if Novo Nordisk were to find a cure for diabetes tomorrow, I'm not sure that I will say yes to it," she said.

"Diabetes is a big part of me. I'm not saying that I would say no. Diabetes has made me who I am, and it has made me realize how precious life is," she said.

Bondi, a nutrition and health graduate, lives with her family and says her condition has not made a difference to the family's diet.

Mealtimes are regular fixtures in family meals. "My family eats the same food as I do. I don't feel special in that way. I don't feel different. It's ready to live well," she said.

"I don't believe that my diet should be very different from how people should really eat," she said.

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Dolphin shows no place for field trips, says solon

By Leila B. Salaverria

SCHOOLS should be more careful about where they take their students on educational field trips and among the places they should avoid are accustomed pa ki-find bottle dolphins, whales and other marine creatures that are held in captivity according to a solon party list member.

In a resolution he filed last week, Kabataan party-list Rep. Raymond Palatino urged the Department of Education to ban school trips to theme parks that hold such animals in captivity, saying this sends the wrong message to the students and does not really teach them anything that they cannot learn about the creatures in the classroom.

These unaccredited parks target school-children by offering them bulk discounts or commissions to take their students there, Palatino said.

"Such exhibits risk teaching children the wrong value that removing wild animals from their natural habitat, keeping them in pools and treating them cruelly are acceptable," he said in his resolution.

Palatino said keeping dolphins and whales in captivity was "technically cruel" because they are known to experience stress and illness when forced to live in tight unnatural settings and forced to perform tricks.

Many of the animals, he said, are also captured through cruel means.

"The cruel practice of hunting dolphins and whales for consumption and entertainment has not only brought suffering and death to these amazing and intelligent marine mammals, but has deeply affected the ecosystem by displacing species that play crucial roles in the environment, and eventually puts some species to the brink of extinction," he said.

According to Palatino, scientific studies have shown that dolphins held in captivity have shorter life spans and die prematurely compared to those left to their natural habitat due to exposure shock, exhaustion and stress-related illnesses.

Palatino also said training whales and dolphins usually involved techniques like starving them until they are hungry keen to perform tricks before they would be given food.

The cetaceans have super sensitive hearing that they use for hunting in the wild. When held in captivity, animals bounce off the concrete walls of their tanks "in mind-

ducing reverberations," Palatino said. This causes them to suffer and the added noise from the crowds aggravates their stress, he added.

He also noted experts' claims that the highly intelligent animals suffer depression when taken from their natural habitat.

Palatino said that based on the 2008 Red List of Threatened Species of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature, eight dolphin subpopulations are considered critically endangered, while two species and three subspecies were classified as endangered.

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More Pinoys make it as UK gov't scholars

By Tarra Quismundo

PHILIPPINE higher learning across various disciplines, an increasing number of Filipinos is flying to the United Kingdom as scholars of top British schools.

The 12 Filipino students are entering various UK schools this year under the Chevening Scholarships, an annual program of the British Government that has been granting scholarships to deserving scholars around the world since 1983.

The batch of 12 scholars this year is the biggest yet, said the British Embassy, four times the 2006 group of three students.

British Ambassador to the Philippines Stephen Lillie recently held a reception for the scholars at his Makati City residence, citing the Philippines' impressive record in the program.

"I'm always impressed by the high quality of scholars coming from the Philippines. I'm delighted that this year we're able to offer a record number of Chevening Scholarships in this country. It's a sign of the importance that we attach to our dynamic links with the Philippines," Lillie said in remarks during the reception.

Every year, an average 500 scholars from around the world receive the Chevening grant to study in UK universities. Funded by the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office, the program has supported higher education of some 32,000 alumni from across the globe.

In this year's batch, five lawyers are pursuing master of studies. Nemuel Abreu will pursue a Master of Laws in Criminal Justice degree at the University of Kent while Shereinlyne Bendaño will pursue a Master of Laws in Development and Environment degree at the School of Oriental and African Studies.

Junior Lee and Anna Lorenz Ramos, former staffers of now Chief Justice Maria Lourdes Sereno, will go to Queen Mary University of London to take up Master's in Public International Law studies.

Ana Rhia Mallo will enroll in the same school to specialize in Environmental Law.

Joyce Sherlene Camacho of the Department of Foreign Affairs will take up International Political Economy at King's College London while journalist Jessica Soriano will take up the same course at the University of Birmingham.

Two scholars will go to the University of Cambridge. Biotechnology consultant Stephen Holland Co will pursue a Master's in Bioscience Enterprise while violist Nesher is assistant Imee Ermoliev will take up his Master's in Finance.

Nongovernment organization worker Abdul Jalil Umpacs will go for a Master of Science in Sustainable Development with Management Studies at Cangwon University—London.

Healthcare researcher Marian Theresa Bakes will be taking a Master of Science Public Health (Health Economics) at London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine at the University of London, while Denisse Rosas, a designer in a local architectural firm, will take up Master's in Environmental Design and Engineering at Bartlett School of Architecture, University College London.

Want to study in Canada? Here's how

HERNOS who may want to study in Canada can attend a Study Forum on Canada to be presented at the Shangri-La Hotel in Makati City on Sept. 15, 2-5 p.m., by Eaton International deputy general manager Josh Osh and study partner ABEAD. A Free Canada Study Guide book will be given to students attending the forum, leading Canadian representatives from institutions that include George Brown College, Centennial College, Algonquin College, Humber College, Seneca College and SCIT will be on hand. The program supports the initiatives made by both the Philippine and Canadian governments to recognize the academic credentials earned by Filipino students in Canada to further their studies, and to promising fees for participants studying hospitality, social service, accounting, hospitality, aviation technology and tourist power technician studies, among others. Inquiries may be made to Eaton International Manila at 637.1166 or 0915.7500006 or e-mail pulong@baton.com. Support partner ABEAD may be accessed through www.abeadcanada.ph and www.eatoninternational.com.ph.

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FILIPINOS with dual citizenship must first give up their foreign citizenship under oath before they can run for any elective post. – Supreme Court

GLOBAL Pinoy

Gilda Mónica Feria

This section is dedicated to Filipinos overseas toiling on land and at sea, in factories, in construction sites and in the homes of the world to secure a better life for their families. These are their stories.

Silicon Valley comes to Manila, Cebu

SHARING AND MENTORING: Successful Filipino IT professionals Dinabelle Barcelon (right) and Winston Damarillo will share their insights and tips.

SOME of the most successful Filipino "techies-turned-investors" from Silicon Valley will be coming home in October to share their insights and interest aspiring information technology (IT) talents on how to take their genius from local to global.

The sharing and mentoring event, which will have the theme "Mentoring Filipino Innovation and Entrepreneurship" will take place from October 3-8, 2011. It will involve a three-day mentoring camp from Oct. 5 to 7 at the Radisson Blu in Cebu City dubbed "Hack2Hatch: From Hacker to Founder." A Kind Event will be held at the Manila Peninsula in Makati City on Oct. 8.

The events will be hosted by the Philippine Development Hall(ve) Foundation chaired by trailblazing computer engineer and IT venture capitalist Dominic Ramarao.

Aside from Ramarao, some of the prominent personalities expected at the event are New York CEO and philanthropist Linda Vitrina Lewis, Winston Damarillo, chief and cofounder of Intel Global Inc., and Gloria Lim Mariscio, founder and CEO of Cavs.com.

Other speakers will include Toby Smith, professor of Entrepreneurship and Innovation, Haas School of Business in Berkeley, California; Arthur Tan, CEO and president of Ayala subsidiary Integrated Microelectronics, Inc.; Alvin Escobar, director of the Developer and Platform Group for Microsoft Philippines; and Eric Schmidt, cofounder and managing partner of Dimmer Ventures.

Executives from Oracle, Facebook, Google and Dell have also been invited to become speakers and mentors.

Google's 10 of Technology Dale Bowman will be among the speakers in the Manila Event.

Hack2Hatch in Cebu

At the "Hack2Hatch" event in Cebu, local start-up groups will receive one-on-one mentorship on how to present their ideas to top venture capitalists, and may even win seed money to fund and grow their business.

"The idea is that we want the investors to see that there's human talent capital in the Philippines. I don't just want to show them foreign guests. I want them to see the people. We always say there's a lot of great people in the Philippines and it is time to highlight them. It is time to showcase that some of the best offshore software application teams built by companies in the Philippines. All these things can be done. It is being done by Filipino engineers, with Filipino architects, in a Filipino facility," said 42-year-old Ramarillo, who is taking the lead in Cebu.

Rafael Ivan Ramarillo, an industrial and Mechanical Engineering Graduate of De La Salle University here, went to work with Intel in California as Developer Connect at Dev. Cor. Philippines, which Ramarillo founded four years ago, is taking the lead in the peer-to-peer mentoring sessions. Ramarillo's new Mobiliala and Intel Software Labs now have offices in Cebu.

In an effort to replicate and share that path, Ramarillo said the only way to share knowledge and build confidence is to have the mentors sit right next to the developers..."and that's what we're doing in Cebu."

"We want to let people know that it's doable, and we want all Filipinos to say, 'Yeah, maybe just' (We can do it). We're ready."

"Cebu has the potential to birth a new generation of entrepreneurs. We're so excited," said Ramarillo.

Pinay workers abroad and family planning

By Isabel Rueda

HONG KONG—"Tili nya gusto magpanot ng super" (She doesn't like to use condoms), my friend Lilia told me carefully in Cebuano, giggling a bit. That was her reply to my query about what form of birth control she and her husband flew used. Having known her for some time, I reminded her about what she thought of the reproductive health (RH) issue that's been roiling Philippine politics these past months. Lilia belongs to the army of intrepid women toiling in Hong Kong, working as a domestic for eight years in this Chinese territory. Of the total of some 200,000 foreign maids, Pinays number 157,000, making up 68 percent. Undocumented women, who control the additional Pinay load a few years ago, are now down to 50 percent.

Only a small percentage of women like Lilia have succeeded in getting their husbands hired here as well. She confided that she takes contraceptive pills, readily available in Hong Kong's government clinics, because they're free—as are condoms, claiming they're "US size," hence too big. (There may be some truth in those who say that unschooled Pinay men can't be bothered with condoms, not wanting to spoil their fun, as it were.) One Manila blogger who very recently that men should use condoms "outside marriage, only with prostitutes." If that's the pervasive male mindset, obviously the burden, so to speak, is overwhelmingly on the women.

Lilia's opinion about the pro-contraception made by the mainly male legislators and Catholic authorities revealed her discernment, despite the fact that she barely finished grade school. Like a few others here, she has access to tabloids and TV shows from Manila, and she agreed that Sen. Tito Sotto's tearful histrionics about contraceptives were absurd. She wasn't surprised when I told her about reports of his plagiarism (although he denies it).

Hailing from Bicutan, Lilia's contract was signed by a British employer whom she persuaded to sponsor her new husband some years later. The agreement is three years renewable; the maid collects a wage. (This practice, though illegal, is common in Hong Kong where employers agree to sign a second contract so couples can stay together, thereby leaving their offspring at home.) It means the men need to find casual work.

Lilia has a son, born soon after Ben joined her in Hong Kong. They can't afford to have another child, so the kid no qualms about taking the pill, having seen friends who've had to farm out their children to relatives at home. Unless Lilia's wage is increased or Ben finds better-paying jobs, they won't be able to pay for the boy's schooling, which is costly here. So they'll resort to asking relatives at home to care for their children, what'll grow up truly knowing their parents by their monthly remittances, as countless others do.

A recent British Broadcasting Company (BBC) documentary on population research found that the continued two million babies born each year will keep the Philippines on top of the population charts in Southeast Asia, rounding as it does at almost 104 million.

A finely reasoned must-hear written by 30 University of the Philippines economists called "Population, Poverty, Politics & the 4th Bill" declares that having an national population policy is tantamount to burying one's head in the sand." Whether rational thinking will put an end to the polemics is questionable in the face of the massive propaganda deployed by the left's opponents. President Aquino himself endorsed "responsible parenthood," but the Filibustering legislators bent on stalling progress on that score seem impervious to the fact that they will succeed in keeping the Philippines poor. It may be a vain hope to wish they'd drop their ideological bias and view the issue through the eyes of women like Lilia.

US law protecting abused migrant wives set to expire

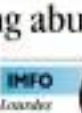
DETAINED spouses who are victims of domestic violence in the United States are allowed to file a self-petition for a green card. Such petitions may be approved as long as it is established that the marriage was entered into in good faith. Sometimes this is difficult to prove in short-lived marriages. Compounding this problem is that sometimes, an abusive partner may unconscionably destroy evidences of the marriage.

Renato, a US citizen, married Janice in January 2011. He filed a petition for immigrant status for Janice. After only three months from the date of filing the petition, Renato began showing signs of violent tantrums—he started beating Janice when they argued. He would throw things at Janice when he was angry. Since Janice's adjustment of status was still pending with the immigration service, she was afraid to report the violence against her. She tolerated the abuse in silence, thinking that was her only option to remain in the United States.

But during one of Renato's fits, a neighbor called the police. The police arrived and arrested Renato. Janice left their marital home in haste.

Janice was referred to a nonprofit organization for temporary shelter where she stayed for a week. She went home to gather some of her personal belongings but was surprised to find them all gone. Renato had turned her that he had filed for a divorce and that he withdrew the petition he had filed on her behalf. He then told Janice he had destroyed all their photographs, letters and any documents that were to any way connected with their marriage. Thereafter, Janice moved to another state to live with a distant relative.

Due to Renato's withdrawal of Janice's petition, the US immigration service placed Janice in deportation proceedings. Her legal counsel then filed an application for an immigrant visa under the Violence Against Women Act (Vawa). Since Janice no longer has documentary evidence of her marriage, her application to self-petition as an abused spouse under Vawa may be denied. What are her options to avoid being deported?



IMFO
Leander Santos Francisco

Filing the self petition

As a victim of domestic violence, Janice may avail of the protection afforded by the provisions of the Vawa. She can file her own petition without the participation of her US citizen spouse, but she needs to prove (1) the fact of her marriage; (2) that the marriage was valid and entered in good faith; (3) that she suffered and was the victim of extreme cruelty; and (4) that she is a person of good moral character.

Secondary evidence

If there is no primary evidence of the good faith of the marriage (aside from the marriage certificate), secondary evidence can be submitted.

Janice could ask witnesses to the marriage or current clients (clients that provide accounts of what they personally know about Janice's relationship with Renato. She could also submit the police report related to Janice's arrest which could contain valuable information on the abusive situation at the time.

She could even get statements from the women's center or nonprofit organization where she sought refuge after she left home, including confidential counseling records if she chooses to allow disclosure of her sessions with psychiatrists and the like.

Vawa set to expire

The provisions of Vawa in its current language afford sufficient protection to all victims of domestic violence. The benefit of self-petitioning for non-US citizens is one of the best features of this law and protects non-US citizens, like Janice. The Vawa was authored in 1994 by Vice President Joe Biden and was passed into law during the term of President Bill Clinton.

This year, however, Vawa is set to expire unless reauthorized by Congress. And like a host of other bills in the pipeline requiring congressional action, the Vawa is currently in the eyes haters of pro-choice bickering from both side of the political aisle. The Democrats want to expand the law to include language protecting Native Americans, immigrants, and the gay and lesbian population. Republicans oppose these. The Republican proposal is to again limit the US citizen abuser-spouse in the process of filing for immigration protection, defeating the very rationale behind the self-petition.

These trends, if unresolved, would hold current protections for victims of domestic violence. Six thousands of other Janices in this country and thousands more like her mired in seemingly hopeless situations of domestic abuse, here is hoping Congress gets its act together and reauthorizes the Violence Against Women Act.

Director may be reached at leo@lmfocounsel.com or at (847) 577 or (312) 946-0.

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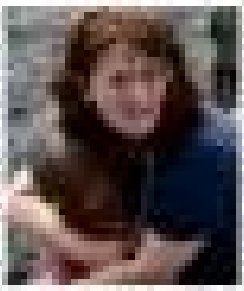

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EDITORIAL

THE 7.6-MAGNITUDE earthquake of Aug. 31 occurred 130 kilometers east of Samar Island but triggered high anxiety among Filipinos nationwide. It inflicted relatively minor damage considering its strength but left almost everyone feeling: What if it had struck closer to land? In the metropolis, the question was: What if it had happened to the heart of Metro Manila?

In 2004, the Japan International Cooperation Agency, Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology and Metropolitan Manila Development Authority presented the Metropolitan Manila Earthquake Impact Reduction Study which warned that if a 7.2-magnitude earthquake hit the metropolis, the results would be catastrophic. "In the worst case, 170,000 residential houses will collapse, 340,000 residential houses will be damaged, 34,000 people will die, 114,000 others will be injured," the study said. "The human loss, together with properties and economy losses of Metro Manila, will be a national crisis."

According to the study, the earthquake will most likely be caused by the Marikina Valley Fault System, also known as the East Valley Fault and the West Valley Fault: "The active phases of the Valley Faults are approaching, and many research studies indicate that the estimated magnitude will be seven or more."

Predictably, the potentially calamitous Aug. 31 earthquake triggered questions involving the Philippines' preparedness for the Big One, or a disaster of similar proportions. The 7.6-magnitude earthquake was the strongest of a series of tremblors that have recently been felt. On top of that, the country is still in the throes of the storm season, with the rest of the approximately 20 typhoons that hit every year still to come.

After the deep and unprecedented damage and loss of life caused by Tropical Storm "Ondoy" in September 2009 and "Sendong" in December 2011, both the government and the private sector were sufficiently moved to put in place remedies and contingency measures for similar disasters. But considering the thrashing that parts of Luzon took last month in the form of the southwest monsoon, exactly how ready are we?

The National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council, which oversees the government's efforts in preparing for natural catastrophes, is the key player. Executive Director Benito Ramos has said that should Metro Manila be hit by a strong earthquake, the MMDA and local government units would be ready for the worst-case scenario, when "we are all victims, and even the responders are also victims." Rescue units will come from nearby provinces and as far away as Cebu to provide aid, he said.

Throughout the country, steps are being taken. The late Interior Secretary Jesse Robredo had, after all, made it a personal crusade to ensure that LGUs improved their disaster risk reduction and mitigation capabilities (by way of incentive, he announced the awarding of a "Seal of Disaster Preparedness" for the qualified LGUs). "The important thing here is reducing casualties to zero," Robredo had said. Results were matched as early as the first half of the year, with 8,504 LGUs putting up working disaster management councils and 1,339 employing alarm systems and command centers.

Last month, the House of Representatives sought the swift passage of bills intended to produce better institutional responses during calamities. Among the more than 30 measures awaiting passage is one ensuring efficient funding for emergency and rescue efforts and another boosting the construction of habitable structures in landslide-prone areas.

Indeed, private and public efforts are being coordinated for disaster preparedness, indicating that we have learned from the worst lessons that Nature has provided. As the Philippines takes its place among the globally competitive countries—jumping 10 slots to rank 65th out of 144 countries, according to the World Economic Forum's 2012-2013 Global Competitiveness Report—disaster preparedness is an essential area for improvement if we are to maintain and improve on economic and societal gains.

If the Philippines is to continue on its rise, then it must be ever vigilant against natural and manmade disaster and equip its people to avert destruction. It takes the government and the people acting together to prepare a nation. It's time we ditched the usual attitudes that have caught us perennially flatfooted.

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Taxation without protection

PUBLIC LIVES

Randy David

LIKE MOST government employees with fixed incomes and meager savings, my wife Corina and I have worried about not being able to help our children when they start searching for a permanent home of their own. Our situation is not very different from that of many middle-class employees in the private sector who hope to own a house at some point. Unless they work for a company with a housing plan, they usually end up renting apartments all their lives. Responding to this need, Bank, the nongovernment organization that Corina headed in the 1990s, conceived of a housing collective for its staff that could serve as a model for young people who are just starting to care for a home.

The idea was to build a small community on a piece of property that would optimize the use of limited space by sacring such common areas. The plan entailed using an innovative building technology that would transform recycled steel container vans into inexpensive but sturdy homes.

Many of the Bank staff members who joined this experimental housing collective took out loans from Pag-Ibig to pay for the land. My wife took out four shares in the collective for our four children who were unmarried at the time, dipping into our savings, and borrowing the rest of the money needed to pay her share in the acquisition of the land. This was a piece of residential property in Marikina's Barangka, Quezon City that was part of the last phase of a vast land development project.

Within a year after the sale was completed, land grabbers invaded the property and the surrounding vacant lots. Overnight, they put up clusters of shanties and constructed the families that would occupy them. The legitimate owners mounted a counterattack by enlisting their partners with frail houses, but armed men drove them away. Bank sought the help of City Hall and the National Housing Author by against the hordes of encroachers, to no avail.

Rather than hire expensive private security guards to secure the property for its owners, including the Bank housing collective, naively pleaded with the settlers to legalize their occupation of the land by paying for it through the government's Community Mortgage Program. These leaders, allegedly police and military men, merely laughed off the idea, saying they already owned it.

This turn of events was particularly ironic for Bank. The NGO had been working with the urban poor for the longest time. Its community workers had helped informal settlers and slum dwellers organize themselves into viable and self-reliant communities that would enforce discipline in their ranks, protect their rights, and secure public services. But clearly this experience had not prepared them for confrontation with syndicates that preyed upon the desperate. Only homeless people could have the courage to defy the police and military to fight against the vulnerable middle classes.

After putting on effective resistance from the authorities, the Bank staff gave up trying to recover the residential lots from those that had seized them. They considered the whole project a lost investment and stopped paying the mortgage loan. Concrete homes have since replaced the shanties that were initially put up on the land, and it is safe to assume that the so-called land rights of the first land-grabbers have changed hands several times over. Unfortunately, that's not where it ends for the original owners who had paid for the land.

The rest of the story can make you either laugh or cry over the incurable dysfunctions of government in our time. Since the legal title to the land grabbed property is still in the name of the registered owners, they have received tax collection notices from the treasurer's office of Quezon City asking them to immediately settle their tax arrears. The first time my wife received this notice, she sent a board member of Bank to inform the city treasurer's collection unit that the entire property had long been taken over by illegal settlers. The treasurer's office replied that its task was to collect the taxes due, not to recover the property. Last Aug. 30, the same office issued a "Final Notice of Delinquency" demanding payment within five days of P11,028.48 in arrears for a 300-square-meter lot. That's just for the portion assigned to Corina.

The city treasurer's rhetoric is "serve warrant of levy," "publish notice of delinquency," and "sell the property in a public auction sale," and transfer the property title to the buyer, if the tax is not paid. It is, of course, a form letter that permits no room for discretion, but I wish they would do all that if only to they would realize the additional injustice they are inflicting on the owners.

In the last decade or so, the pattern of syndicated land invasion has spread to nearby provinces. Syndicates in cahoots with employees in the municipal and provincial levels dig up information on land registration in a given area. After identifying the target area, they move in audibly using as genuine ordinary people who are seduced by the promise of immediate occupancy in exchange for late and easy payment. Also, it is there to note this land-grabbing racketeers who exploit them, who end up becoming the face of the dreaded squatter.

But the biggest losers are the hard-working and law-abiding citizens who lose their property just like that to ruthless land grabbers. Their terrible experience alienates them from government, compounds their distrust of politicians and the police, and sharpens their prejudice against informal settlers.

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Are you listening?

MOMENTS

Fr. Jerry M. Orbos, SVD

ONE TIME I was called to hear the confession of an 80-year-old man. I was told by the wife that I had to speak loud because her husband was hard of hearing. But when I approached the man, I realized that he had perfect hearing! When I told him that his wife had said he was deaf, he gave me a silly grin and a wink. The guy had been faking deafness all along!

• • •

In today's Gospel (Mk. 7: 31), we hear of Jesus curing a deaf man who had a speech impediment. Note that Jesus took the deaf man away from the crowd and, there healed him. It is when we really listen that healing moments happen. Are we really listening?

• • •

It is a fast and noisy world we are living in, and a lot of us hardly have the time to shake the necessary step just to rest, reflect, and recharge. Infected on making a living, many of us just exist without a life worthliving. So busy meeting a lot of people, many of us hardly connect with persons. So engrossed with the crowd, we hardly have time to be with and to really listen to God.

• • •

Please don't wait for tragedy or sickness to come before you listen to God. Tune down the world, and tune up to the Word. Tune down on your personal comfort and priorities, and tune up on the cries of the poor and the needy all around.

• • •

During a recent trip, lawyer Nancy Tan lent me his head set so that I had a "noise reduction" feature. Wasn't it was an amazing experience! Suddenly the noise of the plane engine and the conversations of people around me were inaudible, and with the press to close, I was able to relax and sleep well. Yes, we all need "noise reduction" moments so that we can experience peace and rejuvenation.

• • •

The late Interior Secretary Jesse Robredo's message to our country was loud and clear, but are we still listening? Let his death not be in vain. Let us continue to listen to his message for all of us as a nation. Let us also continue to search for and encourage more Robredos in our respective localities. Let them shine so that we can eventually eradicate the agents of darkness that hover over and control us!

• • •

Rev. Fr. (Supt.) Jason Dukes, chaplain of Camp Crame, related to me how Secretary Robredo requested him to visit his office two weeks before he died for "a very important concern." It turned out that Sec. Robredo wanted to receive the Sacrament of Penance and he also desired his personal image of Our Lady for the chapel of Camp Crame. Father Jason also told me that he was so impressed when he blessed the medals and rosary consecrations that Sec. Robredo requested for. Politicians and government officials can these, are you listening?

• • •

Lawyer Mae Rochelle Belarao sent me a text message that she had been appointed provincial election supervisor of Abra. She asked for prayers that God give her the wisdom, courage and strength to do her duty and to firmly enforce the electoral process in the province. This 36-year-old, prayerful, and feisty woman said she had a dream for her province. One wish you in your dreams to remove from the electoral process the three "Ds" of Guns, Goons and Gold, and to replace them with the three Cs of God, Goodness and Guts. It is with such people as Attorney Belarao, who are taken "away from the crowd," that the light slowly but surely overcomes the darkness.

• • •

Yesterday was the birthday of Monica Mary, and also the birthday of the Secretary of the Living Word (SVD). The SVD in the Philippines continues to send Filipino missionaries abroad, the latest of whom is Fr. Daniel Suchimura, a 28-year-old, newly ordained priest from Mayoyao, Ifugao, who left for our Divine Love last Sept. 1. Please continue to pray for and support our Filipino missionaries overseas.

• • •

Amidst the debate on the Reproductive Health bill, let us listen to what Confucius has to say: "To put the world right in order, we must first put the nation in order; to put the nation in order, we must first put the family in order; to put the family in order, we must first cut our hearts right."

• • •

Think about this: "For a happy and peaceful life, don't stress yourself with useless people who don't even deserve to be in your life; don't invest too much emotion on something because if you do, you'll end up hurting yourself; don't worry too much because God is in control, and God will make a way."

• • •

Today is Grandparents' Day. Let us remember and appreciate those people who have loved and sacrificed much for those who came after them. They may not have money in their wallets now, but they have pictures of their grandchildren, and all the love and memories that come along with them.

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By the way, for those who ask me if I have a Facebook account, my answer is no. I have been told that I have a Facebook page, but I am not the one who put it up. Just be your information.

• • •

Lord, help me not to be deaf to You, and to Your people. Amen.

How the judiciary can help the economy

WITH DUE RESPECT

Antonio V. Pangalangan

AMID THE serious economic crisis engulfing the developed world, the Philippines has shown remarkable resilience. This year, our economy grew 6.3 percent in the first quarter and 5.5 percent in the second quarter. This rate of growth may slow down a bit but it is still projected to end the year at 5.5 percent, faster than most Asian countries like Malaysia, Thailand, Singapore and Vietnam, but behind China and possibly Indonesia.

Deference in political branches. Clearly, the responsibility for propelling our economy and alleviating poverty rests primarily with our President and Congress, together with the private business sector, which is the recognized engine of economic growth in our democratic system.

Nonetheless, the question frequently asked is how the judiciary can help the economy. My stock answer is that, in judging controversies involving the economy, the judiciary must defer as much as possible to the political branches of government.

Absent a clear violation of the Constitution or grave abuse of discretion, courts should respect the economic programs and actions of our political leaders. After all, our people mandated them with that responsibility. Should they fail in discharging their responsibility, the people can remove—or refuse to—our people who have voted their programs or replace them during periodic elections.

May I quickly add, however, that in cases involving human rights and liberty, courts must do the opposite: they must strictly construe the laws in favor of the people and against the government.

Deferential interpretations applied. No case-in-point, for many decades, the protection of native goods and local products was the popular policy here. In pursuit of that policy, Congress limited the importation of foreign goods and set up high tariffs that made imported goods more pricey. In this way, local products were promoted and patronized.

Later, however, nations became more interdependent and protectionism became obsolete. The World Trade Organization (WTO) was organized to host down tariffs and other trade barriers. Resultantly, our public policy shifted from protectionism to liberalization, from government ownership to privatization, from national sovereignty to globalization and from nationalism to internationalism. In short, the whole trend, our history called the Philippine adherence to WTO.

Citing nationalistic provisions of our Constitution mandating "economic nationalism," some senators challenged the constitutionality of the Senate action. However, using deferential interpretation to Tañada vs. Angara (May 2, 1997), the Supreme Court unanimously upheld the validity of the action, ruling in this wise:

"While the Constitution has a bias in favor of Filipino goods, services, labor and enterprises, at the same time, it recognizes the need for business exchange with the rest of the world on the basis of equality and reciprocity and limits the protection of Philippine enterprises only against foreign competition and trade practices that are unfair."

Exercising judicial restraint. The high court refused to pass upon the wisdom or viability of laying down and globalization. It said: "Indeed, what the framer did [in ratifying the WTO Treaty] was a valid exercise of its authority over whether to enter into the treaty or not, a task addressed to sound discretion of the elected policy-makers and the people."

Deference in economic policies. To propel the economy and achieve prosperity, President Aquino adopted economic policies, like the Conditional Cash Transfer program to ease immediately our poor people's misery and foster the education and well being of their children. Also, he turned to public-private partnerships (PPP) to provide basic services, like power generation, water supply, railways, ports, etc.

When lobbying legal issues arising from these programs, courts I think should use deferential interpretation. Long-term investors, the real backbone of the economy, expect legislation to be stable, consistent and predictable. Courts should interfere only when specific contracts implementing these policies clearly violate the Constitution and the laws, or are tainted with grave abuse of discretion.

An example that warranted the Supreme Court intervention was the Government of Singapore's move for the construction of Terminal III of Ninoy Aquino International Airport. The high court ended the contract for plainly violating the law on public bidding. It also invoked the state's right to regulate monopolies, the front being an unwanted interloper, the high court upheld several business interests in ruling that public bidding must "level the playing field" among the bidders, and must be conducted transparently and fairly.

Understandably, the President wants to fulfill his election promise to mitigate our people's poverty and to replenish our economy in many areas. And overseas wants, frankly, he should focus on his main—his reforms in the judiciary.

The same attitude is true in other countries. For example, US President Franklin Delano Roosevelt was so irritated with the US Supreme Court's observations of his New Deal programs that he threatened to increase the total membership of the late 1930s that he contemplated "packing" the court with his own men.

Fortunately, the Supreme Court changed its orientation when "conservative" Justice Owen Roberts joined the four "liberal" justices and tilt the balance in favor of Roosevelt's policies. Thus, the US President desisted from his plans against the judiciary.

* * *

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The CJ and the trailblazer

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

ONE OF the equality of women and men, since the suffragist movement, which sought to win for women the right to vote, was only then making its mark.

She was just 26 when she delivered arguments in favor of the law in the Legislature, arguing that, "The salient differences that distinguish and separate us from men are not enough to justify the irritating inequality of our rights. Men and women might wage the battle of the human race, and our humanity is declared, as they are, free and equal."

She then addressed the links between human rights and gender, declaring, "Gender can influence individual preferences and emotive inclinations, but it does not change the qualities of the human being. The same reason and virtue should change the rights of the individual. Given the fundamental laws and divisions before the private and juridical order, both sexes should be equal." But it wasn't until 1947 that Filipino women would win the right to vote.

* * *

In 2010, Natividad was hired by the Bureau of Justice and worked her way to the position of assistant secretary at the Attorney General's Office.

"Despite so much opposition from colleagues, you decided to enter politics and run for senator," Mañalac-Enriquez asked.

Maribel Ongpin writes in the book "Filipina Firsts, a Salute to 100 Western Pioneers" that "It was in government service that sex discrimination was most rampant. Disturbed and at times bitter by opposition based on her gender, Natividad Almeda-Lopez held well-written, vast always relevantly given, and promotions was slow compared to the men's... Perhaps she spent decades in the city courts of Manila, Manuel Moran, Claro Recto and his colleagues had realized judicial posts."

Finally, professional recognition came her way when she was designated acting city judge of the City Court of Manila, a post she held for three years until President Manuel Quezon appointed her permanently to the post in 1934. She was executive judge of the City Court of Manila for 18 years. When the Courts of First Instance and Municipal Courts were created in 1956, she was appointed presiding judge, and in 1960, a year before her retirement, she was elevated to the Court of Appeals, the highest position she attained and the shortest time she served in the judiciary.

In her speech, Justice Natividad sent trailblazers as well. At 26, already considered an "old maid" in the time, she married Domingo Lopez, a former governor of Tayabas and Mindoro, and a widower with four children. Perhaps, as part of a "prenuptial" agreement, they enjoyed "solo" flights on a "two-seater plane" with her husband staying in Lucena where he was a well-known lawyer, and she staying put in Manila, pursuing her career. She also retained her surname, becoming known as Natividad Almeda-Lopez. Together, they had two daughters, the couple raised these children of their own.

Her panel family celebrated Natividad's 120th birth anniversary yesterday thankful for her legacy in that position to this day.

* * *

Mañalac-Enriquez is a lawyer and a professor of law at the University of Santo Tomas.

Evolutionary theory's welcome crisis

WORLD VIEW

John Gapuz

DEUS—THOSE who believe that a supernatural being created the universe have never posed an intellectual challenge to evolutionary theory. But creationists, whether biblical fundamentalists or believers in "intelligent design," do pose a threat to scientific education, indeed, civilization's insidious genius, but in its ability to reinvent evolution in its own image as a dogmatic belief system—and thus the antithesis of science.

The creationists are right about one thing. Contrary to the impression given by much popular writing on the subject, the theory of evolution is in crisis. But this is a positive development, because it reflects the normative progress of scientific knowledge, characterized by what Thomas Kuhn described in his influential book "The Structure of Scientific Revolutions" as "paradigm shifts."

For the last 70 years, the dominant paradigm in evolutionary science has been the so-called "new synthesis." Widely published in recent years by Oxford evolutionary biologists Richard Dawkins, the new synthesis states that each theory of natural selection with Mendelian genetics, which explains heredity.

The idea that evolutionary science does not imply complete rejection of this paradigm. Rather it entails a major, progressive reorganization of existing knowledge, without undermining the fundamental tenets of evolutionary theory. Organisms alive today developed from significantly different organisms in the past, but the process of progressive fine-tuning—natural selection and natural selection has played a crucial role in this process.

Other assumptions, however, are under threat, for example, in the traditional "tree of life" representations of evolution, the branches always move away from each other, never coming together, except by fallacies, a linear path, and that all evolutionary changes along this path occur within the lineage being traced. But examination of genomes—particularly of bacteria, archaea and other microorganisms—has revealed that "horizontal gene transfer" between species is widespread, and that evolutionary changes can occur by the merging of two lineages.

Recent developments in molecular biology have put the final nail in the coffin of a traditional genetic determinism by example, epigenetics—the study of heritable modifications of the genome that do not involve alterations in the genetic code—is on the rise. And the many kinds of small RNA molecules are increasingly recognized as forming a regulatory layer above the genome.

Beyond the shortcomings of the gene-centered theories of evolution that have dominated public consciousness for several decades, these developments call for new philosophical frameworks. The classical evolutionist views of science, with their focus on "bottom-up" mechanisms, do not suffice in the quest to understand "top-down and circular causality" and a world of natural processes.

This brings us back to where we started. Individually rethinking evolutionary theory invariably attracts the attention of creationists, who gleefully announce that Establishment advocates of Darwinism have come against the theory—and so must we. And, evolutionists, confronted with this response, tend to circle the wagons and insist that everyone is in agreement.

But nothing more clearly demonstrates that science and creationism are polar opposites than the latter's assumption that disagreement signals failure. In fact, disagreement—and the desire to explain that result from it—enables new approaches to scientific understanding. For science, unlike for dogmatic belief systems, disagreement is to be encouraged.

Evolutionary theory's current controversies—and uncertainty to predict where the field will be in 50 years—are a cause for celebration. We should leave the creationists to their hollow convictions and happily embrace the uncertainties inherent in a truly empirical approach to understanding the world.

Professor Emeritus

John Gapuz is professor of philosophy of science and director of the UST Center for Genomics of Society, University of Santo

The lightning rod

METHOD TO MADNESS

Patricia Evangelista

TITO SOTTO is a victim, or so The Notic claims. He believes he is the focus of a concerted effort by the heavily funded supporters of the Reproductive Health bill, all of whom are desperate to demonize him and weaken his resolve. He supports he is the first senator to be made victim of cyberbullying. He has been insulted, criticized and threatened with lawsuits. But they've been repulsed. It is a hard-hot job, he says, a thankless job.

The narrative is correct when he says that plagiarism has become the issue, instead of the motives of the bill itself. He is also correct when he talks about the slow response to his speeches. He is the laughingstock of cyberspace. "Sinumo" is a Google hashtag for public laughing.

He also thinks it odd that none of his opponents, not a single one of his critics, has attempted to refute the ideas he has put forward in his privilege speeches.

"I have not heard a response to any of the points I have thrown against the (RH bill)."

The mistake is not correct. It is true that the plagiarism issue has made him less believable, far less credible, but advocates of the Reproductive Health bill have refuted his ideas point by point, in columns and blogs and television interviews, establishing his sources as outdated, his claims misrepresentations, and his statistics misinterpreted, while pointing out the fundamental factual error in his unequivocal claim that his child died in 1975 because his wife had required birth control pills. The pill was specified. Dude, you got to be distributed for the year he lost his son.

Sotto ignores all this. He continues to claim that the attacks are only due, besides, valiant move and valiant reason, a result of his righteous and correct defense of human life and the unborn child.

"If they cannot kill the message, they will kill the messenger."

The senator does not consider the possibility that the messenger itself may be flawed, and that public indignation may have little to do with the bill. He despite that faith is natural, and the size of his ego ensures it not a flash to think before the attacks may have been brutal, much may have been recalled his bar the basis of the criticism is basic honesty, and his failure to take responsibility. The medium is the message, and it is a concept that Sotto is well acquainted with.

The problem is that he makes a connection between the public mocking him and the public who knows him—knows how to perceive right and wrong, and they know better than to believe his smokers.

"Do we know if they are good people? Do we know if they are kind, if they are decent, if they honor their wives? We don't know who they are, but they are so good at destroying my name."

And yet he destroys that name, and continues to cling to his innocence, invoking his position as senator and public figure, placing himself above those he plagiarized, setting up rules for himself. The medium is misused—a man whose ideas are not his own, whose sources are questionable, whose ideas have been refuted here, in a different manner even when he claims moral authority.

Plagiarism happens, and sometimes happens to the best of men with the best of intentions. It happened to Fareed Zakaria, who escaped the indefinite suspension from Time Magazine and released a public apology to Time and its readers. It happened to Jonah Lehrer, who issued a public apology, took responsibility for his staff's failure, then resigned from the board of directors of Boston Architecture University. It happened to Alfred Yuson, Palanca Hall of Famer, who apologized immediately and publicly and withstood the onslaught of attack from the online community. It happens to many writers, to many artists, to many journalists, some of whom are careless, many of whom, once exposed, have gone to great lengths to humble themselves before the varying publics they serve, well aware that the fault is a fatal, grievous or otherwise.

The truth is that Sotto would have been forgiven if he apologized, if he took responsibility for what he is, a small-bore former actor who has risen to government on the strength of public adulation. There is little evidence his immediate circle would have given anything but a unanimous thumbs-up to his apology, how he has already admitted to having speech writers and staff assisting in the drafting of his speeches, in no way would he have been long and quarrelsome for a rule. Rather than a matter of the Supreme Court has been accused of. And yet this continued resistance in the face of obvious wrong is what keeps this story alive, and diminishes the noble message that Sotto claims is not being heard.

This Sotto tells himself a lightning rod. Yet he fails in many that his failure to receive much the plagiarism is the unwilling cause for his failure to defend the RH bill. Like the boy who cried wolf fingers, claimed his victims were "only bloggers," allowed his colleagues to take rather partial responsibility, claimed conspiracies against him and the most evil of intentions, dismissed the academic and then set about making the most ridiculous of excuses when he again makes a fool out of himself on Senate floor. Sotto claims the right to remain entitled to bring down the RH bill, it would have been best to swallow his ego, apologize, and remove the distraction that will not allow the nation to return to the debate at hand.

Sotto has done little for his friends against the RH bill. On the same day the Philippine Catholic Church continues in its the single best argument in support of the opposition: homosexuality. Sotto claims the right to moral authority while damaging that authority, both when to engage in rational discourse. The only difference is that unlike Senator Sotto, the Church never fails to claim its source.

THEY SAID

Marriage low priority

"Family units are saddled with severe problems of providing for their children and making ends meet, so unfortunately marriage is the farthest thing from their minds."

—Pampanga Rep. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, on the National Statistical Coordination Board's report that three Filipino families have only the time to plan for marriage but none when giving priority for starting couples because of rising poverty

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TALK of the TOWN

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Like Juan X. Sarmiento Jr.

SOTTO AND RH BILL

'Fringe science' in health policy debate

By Oscar F. Picazo, Marites Dañguilan, Rozzelle Laraño and Valerie Gilbert T. Ulep

Since the mainstream consensus is that pills are safe, Sotto and his staff were constrained to source their reference from fringe science (Pope blog). Fringe science has been described as highly speculative, far-out, wild, pseudo-scientific and employing novel hypotheses

SEN. VICENTE Sotto III's use without citation of a blog by Sarah Pope on the safety of pills has landed him in hot water, with allegations of plagiarism.

But more important than the plagiarism issue is the senator's inadvertent promotion of "fringe science" over mainstream science in the important policy debate on reproductive health (RH).

Mainstream health science

Per Sotto's "status ex antea" speeches, one would have expected him to use global, reputable scientific sources, usually from international agencies such as the World Health Organization, United Nations Population Fund and Unicef.

But Sotto's apparent mixture of these sponsors' pro-RH position probably dissuaded him from looking in these directions.

Nevertheless, there are other reputable agencies that he could have referred to, such as the US Food and Drug Administration, National Institutes of Health and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Similar European bodies also exist. These agencies base their policy recommendations on findings of rigorous clinical trials, usually published in peer-reviewed medical journals.

These journal articles are synthesized by the Cochrane Collaboration (www.cochrane.org), a network of 28,000 dedicated people from over 100 countries. They work together to help providers and policymakers make well-informed decisions about health care by promoting the accessibility of the Cochrane Library (www.mrw.interscience.com), which "contains information deemed the gold standard for determining the relative effectiveness of different interventions."

Local reputable professional groups also exist, including the Philippine Medical Association, Philippine Obstetrical and Gynecological Society (POGS), National Institutes of Health, and nursing and midwifery societies. POGS has since stated unequivocally that oral contraceptives are safe.

No rigorous peer review

The question is: Why were none of the above mainstream sources ever consulted? Rather than follow these formidable sources of scientific advice, why did Sotto and his staff site a blog, the findings of which even were subjected to rigorous peer review as is what is done in scientific journals?

The problem with basing the "unsafe pills" argument of Sotto on a suspect-reviewed blog is that it could be a product of fringe science.

Fringe science is an inquiry in an established field of study that departs significantly from mainstream or orthodox theories (Theriault-Encyclopedia, 2012). Fringe science has been described as highly speculative, far-out, wild, pseudo-scientific and employing novel hypotheses.

It can also be construed as early or "proto" science and therefore nonconsensus and not yet held to be part of the accepted scientific canon. While some fringe science may employ the same scientific methods as mainstream or credible science, others may lack scientific integrity.

Risks of pills

Oral contraceptive pills are absolutely safe, but mainstream science's consensus is that they are generally safe (PHS, 1999). But this caveat, health agencies and US and European drug regulatory bodies have approved their use since the 1960s. Most developing countries, including the Philippines, have also approved their use.

The Cochrane collaboration has confirmed that "Overall, oral contraceptives are safe and effective, and continuous pill use is a reasonable approach to oral contraceptives." (Edelman, 2005).

Indeed, medical authorities have stated that "the health risks of oral contraceptives are lower than those from pregnancy and birth" (Grimes and Raz, 2005).

Oral contraceptives have been shown to raise the risk of venous thromboembolism and pulmonary embolism, but the fatal risk is very low at 1 per 100,000 women (Blanco-Molina and Abarrual, 2010).

According to the US National Cancer Institute, some researchers suspect contraceptive pills could raise the risk of breast cancer, with the length of time of pill usage increasing the risk, i.e., at least 10 years. But the final decision still reverts to almost nonexistent, more convincing proof of the pill.

Moreover, a 2008 systematic review did not support the suspicion of an increased cancer risk in users of combined oral contraceptives (Gierisch, et al., 2008).

In general, while there are isolated individual risks of taking pills, the attributable risk is so small and statistically negligible in the general population.

The study by Schwing, Ory and Mercer (1999) shows an observable excess in attributable risk of cardiovascular deaths related to pills (1.6 deaths per 100,000). In fact, the attributable risk of cardiovascular deaths from smoking, sedentary lifestyle, unhealthy diet and alcohol consumption are much significantly higher compared with contraceptive pill use.

In the case of breast cancer, although the literature suggests that an increased risk of breast cancer may be associated with long-term oral contraceptives, the attributable risk of breast cancer from birth control pill use is very minimal (Palmer and Greiner, 2005).

Dangers of relying on fringe science

Sotto's view that pills are unsafe is based on his conclusion that pills found name "Ocson" taken by his wife caused the congenital disease and eventual death of his son, Vincent Paul, 37 years ago.

But his conclusion has not been proven beyond reasonable doubt, using rigorous epidemiological standards for establishing and confirming causality (See sidebar).

His belief that they are unsafe is not shared by the vast majority of epidemiological research. Scientific consensus evolves after many studies on a specific hypothesis, using employing randomized controlled trials, with the results being gathered in meta-analysis on the particular issue.

Since the overwhelming mainstream consensus is that pills are safe, Sotto and his staff were constrained to source their reference from fringe science (Pope blog).

The use of fringe science in policy discussions on health raises serious issues. The Senate should look at this issue as it affects its integrity, and because the health of millions of women is at stake if pills and other contraceptives become unavailable mainly on the say-so of Sotto.

Corrective measures

The Sotto-ex contra episode sets a dangerous precedent for fringe science to become a major influence on public policy. This is an unhealthy development and must be monitored, through a number of ways.

First The legislative staff should be encouraged to look at reputable sources of scientific evidence, preferably those with global reputations. Congress could also commission reviews of the health literature. This could be done under the Congressional Commission on Science and Technology and Engineering.

Second The intimidating nature of scientific studies requires that they be "humanized" so that they can be understood by policymakers. This can be done by the Institute's Economic and Developmental Factbook or the health department's Health Policy and Development Planning Bureau.

Third The local public-health community should be more organized and active. Different national offices should be involved, such as the National Institute of Health, the Philippine General Hospital Research and Development, and the Food and Drug Administration. The opinions of experts in professional societies, and schools of medicine and public health should be sought.

Fourth This unfortunate episode highlights once again the poor state of science education, research and advocacy in the Philippines.

Science funding is paltry and very few young Filipinos seem to want to go into science. The broadcast media devote so little time to science, and newspapers and magazines carry very few science-related articles.

Fifth The government should consider a high-level body that steers and commissions effectiveness and outcomes research, impact evaluation studies, and assessments of health technology.

These studies become more important as the country moves toward achieving universal health care. In other countries, such bodies have been established, e.g., Thailand's Health Systems Research Institute, South Korea's Health Insurance Review Agency and Taiwan's National Health Insurance Research Database.

Until we, as a people, build an appreciation of science, our social lives will be marked by junk thinking and bogus beliefs, and national progress will be difficult to achieve.

(The views expressed in this article are the authors' and not their institutional affiliations. The article was written without any support from government or the private sector. More specifically, the Philippine Institute for Development Studies (PIDS) management was not involved in its writing or review. Thanks to Dr. Aser del Rosario for giving feedback on an earlier draft of this article.)

SOTTO GETS EMOTIONAL Majority Leader Vicente "Tito" Sotto III became emotional while delivering his "status ex-cantos" on the reproductive health bill on Aug. 13. Some would interpret his tears as his victory-cry as Senator over what the RH bill was months after birth. (Edwin Espiritu/File)

Causality in public health

CONDITIONS for causality: A contraceptive pill-cause B (congenital birth defect) if and only if (1) A is prior to B, (2) change in A is correlated with change in B, and (3) this correlation is not itself the consequence of both A and B being correlated with some prior C.

Sen. Vicente Sotto III has not definitively demonstrated causality. As far as can be ascertained, there are no documented cases of contraceptives causing birth defects.

It is possible that some other factor C was involved, e.g., other drugs that his wife, Helen Gualberto, may have taken, or chemicals that she may have been exposed to, or genetic factors, or environmental factors.

It also seems that the coincidence with the brand name "Ocson" that senator's wife allegedly used was introduced in the Philippines way after her pregnancy and birth of her child, so condition 1 above is not met.

Other criteria one looks for in judge whether an association is causal are:

(a) the strength of the association;

(b) dose-response relationship;

(c) consistency of the association across different studies;

(d) specificity of the association;

(e) timing of the cause and the effect — the time-incongruency problems of the Sotto brand of contraceptives used by Gualberto has been scrutinized by the social media, but has not been adequately explained by Sotto; and

(f) biological plausibility, or coherence with existing information on the etiology of the disease.

Finally, the case of Vincent Paul Sotto's congenital disease might remain only one undocumented sample and, as far, there are no similar cases to corroborate it.

Thus, no matter how emotionally compelling the senator's testimony is, it does not measure up to the above epidemiological standards of causality. — Picazo, et al.

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About the authors

• Oscar Picazo is an independent consultant on health financing and policy. He has an M.A. in economics from the University of the Philippines and was a Humphrey fellow in health policy at Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health and Hopkins, Baltimore, Maryland, USA. He has worked as health economist in more than 26 countries.

• Marites Dañguilan trained as a medical doctor with postgraduate studies in public policy. She was the chief of the technical staff of the Senate committee on health, chaired by Sen. Edgardo J. Angara in 1986. She was a senior adviser on maternal health in United Nations Inc. in 2000 and is now an independent consultant working on reproductive health.

• Rozzelle Laraño is a health economist on leave as a research fellow at PIDS while pursuing postdoctoral fellowship at the Institute of Health Metrics and Evaluation in Seattle. She earned her Ph.D. from Universidad de Navarra.

• Val Ulep is a supervising research specialist at PIDS and lecturer of epidemiology at the Ateneo Graduate School of Business. He is a licensed medical technologist, and has a master's degree in epidemiology from the UP College of Public Health.

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Subanen leader says his fight is vs illegal mining

BAYOG, Zamboanga del Sur—The tribal leader who lost his son in an attack on Sept. 4 yesterday said he was fighting illegal mining in his area and demanded that those behind illegal mines leave his town.

In a statement, Timuay Lumen Manda, a Subanen leader and village chief, said losing a son was painful enough and being falsely spurred as saying he was against all forms of mining added to his anguish.

"To set the record straight, I am not anti-mining," the statement quoted Manda as saying. "I am anti-illegal mining."

"I am a government official, capsule of Barangay Limason, and I swore to uphold the law," the statement said. "We have not been anti-mining and other environmental laws," it said.

The statement was issued just as police announced the arrest last Friday of two suspects in the ambush on Manda that killed his 11-year old son, Jordan.

Insp. Emil Abejo, Bayog police chief, said yesterday that Hudson Lisao and Codoy Ha-ing were arrested in their houses in Barangay Limason around 10 a.m. on Friday. Police said they seized a .45 cal. pistol and bullets from the suspects.

Abejo said the two suspects were identified by some witnesses as among the armed men who ambushed Manda on Sept. 4.

Manda was driving his son, Jordan, to school when five to eight armed men attacked him. He was slightly injured but his son, Jordan, suffered fatal gunshot wounds.

The two men are now detained at the Zamboanga del Sur police headquarters pending the filing of charges against them, Abejo said.

He said police are still investigating the matter for the attack.

Manda earlier said he could not immediately think of any reason why anyone would want him dead.

"I and the villagers are already in good terms after we addressed issues" over mining operations, said Manda shortly after the attack.

"While I appreciate the sympathy of some groups, ... I cannot afford to realize this matter their avenue for expressing their undermining adversary which I do not subscribe to," Manda's statement quoted him as saying.

"I am calling the attention of those who mine or are planning to mine in our ancestral land without valid or legal documents. Stop now," said the statement.

"You only bring trouble to our peaceful community and destruction to our environment," it said.

"Those who are doing illegal mining business in Bayog Iron are not from Bayog, get out of Bayog Iron," Manda said.

Manda is leading an effort to unify tribes by the Subanen people in the Central Zamboanga Peninsula to make their claims as and protect their remaining ancestral domain.

He asked members to "stop contravening or exploiting your fellow IPs (indigenous peoples)."

"We are responsible enough to handle our own problems," he said. "We can settle our disputes peacefully ... if there is no outside intervention," he added.

He appealed to President Aquino to put a closed ban to illegal mining, saying "bothering must be wrong when the law cannot be enforced effectively in our places." *With a report by Flor Fal, Inquirer Mindanao*

Pangasinan readies support for LP bets

DAGUPAN— leaders are, this early throwing their support behind senatorial candidates of the ruling Liberal Party (LP), which is chaired by President Aquino.

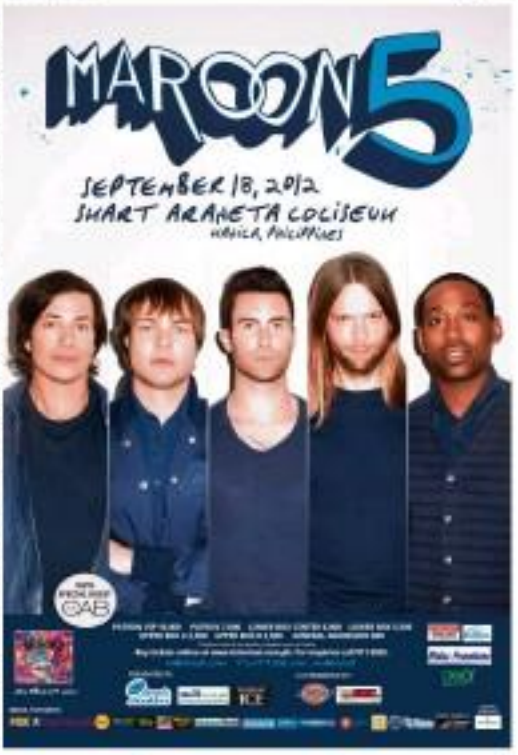
In a statement, Oscar Lambino, former vice governor and now spokesperson of LP Pangasinan, called for support for LP senatorial candidates as he gave assurance the province is much here with local leaders.

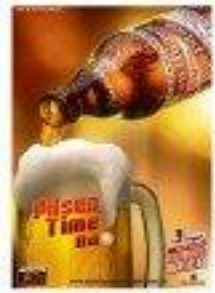
He said the process of consolidating forces in Pangasinan is part of LP's drive to promote its advocacies and advance the commitment for good governance.

"We are giving our 100 percent assurance for our LP senatorial candidates," said Lambino in the statement.

The gubernatorial election in the province, in the meantime, is being watched closely by local political leaders.

Political circles in the province are discussing the possible candidacy of flamboyant Mayor Hermant Bengzon as either governor or vice governor.





Across the NATION

Assistant Editor Tony Bergonia

₱1M in equipment of solon's firm torched in Albay

LEGAZPI CITY—Unidentified men torched P1 million worth of heavy equipment owned by a construction firm of Abo Rural Rep. Christopher Co in San Domingo town in Albay, according to police.

Supt. Ismael Ferolino, local police spokesperson, said three unidentified men poured gasoline and set fire to a backhoe parked near the yard and guard resulting size of Hisorge Construction Inc. in Purok 1, Batangay Libang, in San Domingo at around 4:30 p.m. on Sept. 3.

Ferolino said police learned of the attack from an employee of the construction firm, Erwin Hernandez, 39, who testified in the town's police station to report it.

Ferolino said police could not yet link the attack to the New People's Army (NPA).

Co is the brother of Shuddy Co, owner of Sunwest Construction, which lost P130 million worth of pieces of heavy equipment in previous NPA attacks. —Mar Arguelles, Inquirer Southern Luzon

DENR tries cloning of forest trees

By Tonette Orejas
Inquirer Central Luzon

ARAYAT, Pampanga—Forest trees are now being cloned in Central Luzon through a nursery at the foot of Mount Arayat here as the region can grow quality trees for its share in the National Greening Program and for the timber needs of industries, environment officials said on Thursday.

The cloning method is used because dipterocarps (tropical trees) like yakal, guijo, giant-gisok, palosapis, dipung and white lauan start flowering or bearing when these are 15 to 20 years old, said Marcelo Dichoso, Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) executive director in Central Luzon.

The cuttings produce trees from cuttings taken from seeds, said Restituto Ibasan, officer in charge of the DENR's Ecosystems Research and Development in the region. Trees produced through cloning are genetically identical to the mother or parent trees.

The cuttings are taken from shoots of more than 500 mother trees planted at the foothills of Mt. Arayat, Ibasan said.

The cuttings are sterilized and treated with rooting hormone before these are grown in trays sealed in plastic bags or under a tent.

The P2.5-million-clonal nursery in Mt. Arayat is the first in Central Luzon such a similar to a DENR facility in Laguna, Ibasan said.

The nursery, Dichoso said, does not use genetically modified species.

"We are produce the true and exact character of a tree. The cuttings come from trees that are endemic to our environment. We have to clone because this is an efficient way of growing some nearly extinct species like spil," he said.

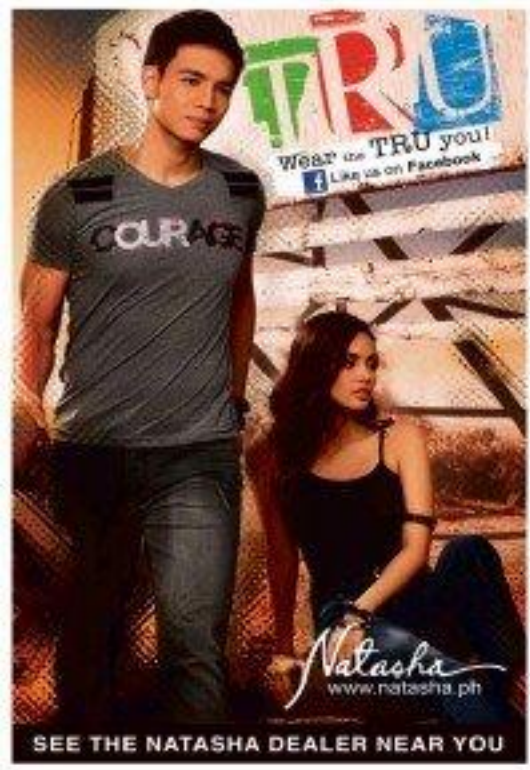
The survival rate of shoots here is 60 percent, Ibasan said. The nursery has so far produced some 3,000 dipterocarps since it opened last month.

People's organizations will be tapped to help in planting and caring for the trees, DENR officials said.

Mayor Wilmington Gordoncillo, Gemmad Mendoza, Mariteshajan, Bonbibon and Palmerco and Cagayan Valley, Central Luzon has the third biggest forest cover in the country.

Recent data released by the DENR Forest Management Bureau showed that Central Luzon has 589,945 hectares of forest lands.

MANGROVE RAPE
A wide swath of mangrove area in Dinalo, Bulacan province, starts to disappear as a landfill project begins to take shape in the town. Environmentalists have protested the project. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Warehouse with ore samples sealed off

THE MINES and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) has ordered the sealing of a warehouse in Lutang, Davao, containing drill core samples owned by Mindoro-wide Development Corp. (Diadoco).

Jose de Jesus, Diadoco president, in a statement said the samples were taken from the company's mine site in Bagtang in Pantukan, Compostela Valley.

"[These samples] are critical in determining the mineral values of the Kingking mine site," De Jesus said, adding that the sealing was an "indirect pressure" from saying the core samples.

Diadoco has maintained that its 1,616-hectare mining area in Kingking—which is covered by a mineral production sharing agreement—could yield up to 10.5 million ounces of gold and 5.6 billion pounds of copper.

The warehouse's closure will remain in effect until the MGB lifts its order.

MGB officials were present at the sealing of the warehouse. —Inquirer Mindanao

Fuentebella: I'm ready to prove SALN rap false

By Jam Escandor Jr.
Inquirer Southern Luzon

NAGA CITY—Deputy Speaker Arnulfo Fuentebella is ready to prove there is no truth to allegations that he failed to disclose 22 pieces of property in his 2010 statement of assets, liabilities and net worth (SALN), his defense lawyer said.

Lawyer Juanito Velasco said he would present the needed documents before the Office of the Ombudsman to disprove charges that Fuentebella deliberately failed to disclose several pieces of property in his SALN filed on Dec. 31, 2010.

"While we have yet to receive a copy of the complaint, let it be said that Deputy Speaker Fuentebella has been dutifully filing his SALNs in full compliance with the requirements of the law and such guidelines on SALNs like those issued by the Civil Service Commission," said Velasco in an e-mail to the Inquirer.

The eight-page complaint against Fuentebella was filed on Aug. 17 at the Ombudsman's for South Luzon by Francisco Ramirez Tria III, a former councilor in Naga, Camarines Sur, and an officer of a cooperative in the same town.

Velasco accused Tria of allowing himself "to be used by a political personality in filing the harassment suit" against the deputy speaker.

"The group associated with the complainant [Tria] had drawn criticisms from the people of Camarines Sur for saying unsavory things against the late Interior Secretary Jesse Robredo before his demise," said Velasco.

In his statement, Velasco asked, "Can people be blamed for thinking that this group just wants to divert attention away from their attacks on Secretary Robredo by patronizing politicians from their complaint against Representative Fuentebella?"

Velasco, however, did not identify the political personality he mentioned in his letter.

Before the 2010 election, Tria lost to Evelyn Fuentebella, wife of the deputy speaker, in the mayoral elections in Naga.

Naga is one of the 20 towns in the fourth district of Camarines Sur where Fuentebella is on his last term as representative in Congress. The other towns are Camaligan, Gainza-rosa, Gua, Lagonoy, Presentacion, San Jose, Sipocot, Tigaon and Tinambac.

Cuenco backs out of race

By Gilbert A. delos Angeles
Inquirer Visayas

CEBU CITY—Poor health has forced one of this city's most prominent politicians to retire from politics.

Antonio Cuenco, former congressman, was heeding his doctor's advice, said a statement issued by his family.

Cuenco planned to run for congressman's again next year.

In a message read by his eldest son, Junco, Cuenco said he realized he needed to retire when he felt dizzy as a result of his vertigo during a recent meeting with village leaders in Barangay Guadalupe about rare tuberculosis.

Cuenco collapsed and was prevented from falling to the floor by Junco.

Cuenco, in a statement, said he had himself checked by his doctor who confirmed that his vertigo started to occur.

INQUIRER Mindanao

Editor Jun Bandayrel
Bureau Chief Nico R. Alconaba

Peace seen in 'not so distant future'

By Ryan D. Rosauro
Davao City

WITH the way things are turning out in the negotiating table, reaching a consensus on a workable peace formula to end over four decades of bloody rebellion in Mindanao is an objective that lies in "not a very distant future" anymore.

At the start of the four-day 21st exploratory talks in Kuala Lumpur on Wednesday, government was hoping to firm up a "framework agreement" with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF).

Sharing this optimism, MILF chief negotiator Mohagher Iqbal said "signing the framework agreement is not a remote possibility."

"It can happen, perhaps not in a very distant future," said Iqbal.

According to presidential adviser on the peace process Teresita Quintos Deles, the framework agreement will include a road map for replacing the current Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) with the more autonomous Bangsamoro Juridical Entity (BAPE) which has far greater political and economic self-governance powers.

BAPE is a crossbreed of the government's initial offer of enhanced autonomy through a reformed ARMM and the MILF's ambitious formula that has roots in the concept of a Bangsamoro Juridical Entity (BJE).

But Deles explained that the BJE concept has long been abandoned in the negotiations because it was associated with the failed memorandum of agreement on ancestral domain that the Supreme Court declared as unconstitutional for, among others, lack of consultations.

"Like you, we have moved from our initial positions," said chief government negotiator Marvic Leonen at the signing of a 10 Decision Points document last April.

The creation of BAPE was listed in the 10 Decision Points that would guide the crafting of a comprehensive peace formula.

BAPE's core territory will be the current ARMM. MILF has proposed that six provincewide Moro populated areas in Lanao del Norte and at least 735 barangays contiguous to the region be included in BAPE subject to a plebiscite.

Deles said "the two parties have not yet agreed on the mode and scope of jurisdiction for the autonomous entity."

She added that the framework agreement must also spell out measures that should be taken in the transition from ARMM to BAPE.

In an earlier interview, Iqbal said the legal instruments being considered to effect a transition range from an executive order by the President to a congressional act.

"Eventually, we want the political setup entrenched in the Philippine Constitution so that it becomes a permanent feature of the legal system," said Iqbal.

From its original proposal of seven years, the MILF has agreed to trim down the period of transition to three years so that key portions of any agreement would be implemented within the term of President Aquino.

"This achievement led to a new strategy by the negotiators.

Deles said the framework agreement will be the first in a series of parts the government and the MILF will sign in the process of establishing and empowering the Moro self-governance entity.

"The reason that the peace formula will not be considered only in one document.

Deles explained that the framework agreement will contain "an elaboration of the 10 Decision Points" as well as "its interventions of principles" that will guide the crafting of successive agreements.

She said negotiations for all these agreements must be completed also within the term of Mr. Aquino.

"We want the major commitments that will have a bearing on building peace in Mindanao implemented within this administration," she said.

"And the conclusion of the negotiations to address the Moro aspiration for self-determination," she added.

"But of course the task of building lasting peace in Mindanao goes beyond this administration," Deles stressed.

Within the agreed three-year transition phase, other substantive measures like the enactment of a Bangsamoro Basic Law and normalization will be worked out, Deles further said.

Under the MILF proposal, the basic law will govern the operation of the BAPE just like the charter or Organic Act that created the ARMM.

The proposals of the parties include disposition of firearms and deactivation of the MILF's armed wing, the dismantling of private armies, political and degree of presence of the Armed Forces of the Philippines within the self-governance region.

Iqbal said a plebiscite for the expansion of the BAPE's core territory may also be done within the transition phase.

Ending Wednesday's opening drive, Leonen proposed that the recent round of talks conclude with the panels "taking home to our principals a completed product, a consensus draft, even a very rough draft with entire options of a framework agreement for their serious consideration."

"We do not aim for a perfect agreement. We do not aim for an agreement where words will immediately solve centuries-old problems," Leonen said.

"Instead, we aim for an agreement that is viable—one that produces the first platforms that can inspire both sides to build on the trust and confidence that we may now have with each other," he added.

Deles admits that the current round of talks is the start of the countdown toward finally concluding the 15-year negotiations with MILF.

Optimism for more positive results is founded on the "utmost goodwill that the parties have for each other," she said.

"But there is also no denying that the issues still on the table will not be easy to settle as in critical details of power and wealth-sharing, territorial scope, and normalization to include disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of the MILF's troops," she said.

The creation of technical working groups on power-sharing and wealth-sharing last month was aimed to hasten discussions on the two substantive issues.

Earlier, Iqbal said the parties have for a long time been stuck on several points relating to these issues.

For one, Iqbal said, there was no consensus on whether election and energy are exclusive powers of either the central government or the BAPE.

He revealed that the MILF was willing to make it a concurrent power of both entities and the specific terms of sharing such power will be defined in subsequent parts.

Iqbal described the negotiations as "pursuing through a clarifying moment." And in this, Leonen said the parties are required to invest "a little more patience (and) a little more creativity...."

Ending the opening drive, Leonen said he was planning to ask for a moment of silence to honor the late Local Government Secretary Jesse Robredo.

"But then I realized that there may be a better way to honor him as well as those who passed away living lives founded on the belief that there can be better societies that are more governed and therefore more humane," he added.

"We seek that all pain be silenced permanently. That is why the peace that will become a memory and that our disagreements, our disappointments and perhaps even our anger will never be again channeled to cause deaths in violent confrontation," Leonen said.

"It is there where we will truly start to honor all of our dead," he said.

A MILF supporting the Mindanao people's longing for peace greets motorists on a road leading to Cotabato City Hopes are high for a peace agreement to be in place before Presidents Aquino ends his term.

'We aim for an agreement that is viable—one that produces the first platforms that can inspire both sides to build on the trust and confidence that we may now have with each other...'

IMAGES of soldiers are reflected in a pool of water that formed out of a crater carved by a bombing in Lanao del Norte in 2000 at the height of government pursuit of Moro rebels behind a string of attacks on civilian communities.

Asia-Pacific leaders urged to build bridges, not walls

VLADIVOSTOK—Asia-Pacific leaders on Saturday called for unity in tackling a raft of economic challenges, as the summit began here amid cheap shots at host Russia over international disputes and other issues.

Russian President Vladimir Putin, host of the 2012 Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (Apec) forum and leaders' summit, opened the two-day gathering with a call for a renewed joint commitment to open regional trade.

"By getting together and lifting barriers, we encourage dynamic development of the entire Asia-Pacific region and the global economy in general. It is important to build bridges, not walls," Putin said in his follow leaders.

The 21 members of Apec, which accounts for nearly half of world trade, must every year to build goodwill in their effort to break down trade barriers, with the bloc's rules decided by consensus.

But this year's summit began with Apec guests China, Japan and South Korea embroiled in various territorial disputes that have fanned intense nationalist flames, and with US-China relations also heating up over the West Philippine Sea.

Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihiko Noda said he would use bold cautionary bilateral summit talks with China's President Hu Jintao not break his host's Lee Myung-bak because of Japan's separate territorial disputes with their nations.

Besides the Philippines, Apec member Vietnam has also spoken out strongly against China in the lead-up to the summit.

The Philippines and Vietnam have accused China of a campaign of intimidation to enforce its claims to virtually all of the West Philippine Sea, parts of which they contest.

Speaking at a presummit business forum earlier Saturday, Hu called for all countries to overcome the tensions and not resolve lines more serious conflicts.

"To maintain peace and stability is as well as sound momentum of economic growth in the Asia Pacific is the common duty of countries in the region. It is our shared responsibility," Hu said, while also warning against protectionism.

Trade barriers

Philippine economic officials went into the forum well-satisfied more countries would put up more barriers to trade as world economic growth cools down.

"There were statements during the ministerial discussions that there's increasing protectionism," Philippine Trade and Industry Secretary Gregory Domingo told a news conference on Saturday. "So the ministers said that this is something that member states should really try to avoid doing."

Socioeconomic Planning Secretary Arsenio Balisacan said the Philippines and other Apec countries remained to make sure their partners would not take protectionist stand in the wake of the euro crisis and the slowdown in big economies like China.

"We are discussing the need to reform that we need to solve the problems that are facing our domestic economies in a way that will not curtail the expansion of trade," Balisacan said.

In a joint statement issued after their two-day meeting, the Apec trade ministers said: "We noted with concern the International Monetary Fund's downward projection for global growth for this and next year and the rise in protectionist measures around the world. We underlined the need to address the urgency of further actions to keep markets open."

US interests

The United States has tilted China by calling for a rule of conduct for the West Philippine Sea and insisting on freedom of navigation in the strategic waterway. China has also perceived a greater US focus on Asia in an effort to contain it.

US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, speaking in the US Pacific island territory of Guam, said Obama and Thursday in a presummit outing through the region that Washington was not going to shy away from standing up for American strategic interests.

His emphasized at a business forum on the sidelines of the summit on Saturday that the United States was determined to increase its economic and political footprint in the region.

"After an extended period in which the United States had to focus a great deal of attention and resources on regions and conflicts elsewhere, we are now making substantially increased investments in the Asia Pacific," she said.

"We seek to work with others in this vital region and just region as earlier that still boasts every, ... she said.

Apec leaders have insisted they will still make progress in Vladivostok in opening up economies.

Leaders' statement

They will jointly call for greater efforts to "support growth and foster financial stability and restore confidence," according to a draft of a leaders' statement to be released at the end of the summit and obtained by AFP.

It warns of mounting risks to the region from eurozone crisis in Europe and pledges to work to order domestic demand to counter falling exports.

The summit of leaders can also expected to approve a deal reached on Thursday by their trade ministers to cut tariffs on a list of dozens of "green" products in the Asia-Pacific region to boost trade in the goods and help protect the environment. Reports from Gil Cabacungan and AFP

P-Noy to meet Chinese leader today; territorial row on agenda

From page B1

Hotel Seal.

Philippine and Chinese ships were locked in a standoff for more than two months at Panatag Shoal, 220 kilometers west of Zambales, after Philippine authorities arrested Chinese fishermen for alleged poaching. Both the Philippines and China claim the rich fishing grounds.

The Philippine vessels left the area to raid Asia due to stormy weather, but Del Rosario has said they may return when the weather clears.

Previous agreement

"Without preempting the discussion between the two presidents, I'd like to ask you to would that in their last meeting [the Association of Southeast Asian Nations meeting in Cambodia in March], when the President was invited for a state visit to China, there was an agreement that the dispute in the South China Sea are not the main total of the relations. And value we'd like to happen is we'll like to go back to that agreement," he said, essentially that both leaders will try to move forward the bilateral agenda and shelve the contentious issues and deal with that separately," Del Rosario said.

Thanking Singapore

In revisiting that agreement, Del Rosario said, the Philippines and China should finally agree on economic targets, including trade and tourism.

Aquino, Noda and Hu are attending the Apec leaders' summit on Sunday Island, on the Pacific Ocean off the Russian port city of Vladivostok, on Sunday and Monday.

Just hours after arriving on a chartered Philippine Airlines Airbus A320 on Friday night, Mr. Aquino set out for summit business, including bilateral talks with the leaders of Singapore and Chile.

Del Rosario said Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong reaffirmed his country's commitment to support a peaceful resolution of the territorial disputes in the West Philippine Sea, and President Aquino thanked him.

English teachers for Chile

"He also expressed the need for Asean to strengthen its solidarity and its centrality in being able to embrace the importance of Asean being an entity that would promote peace and stability in the region," Del Rosario said.

After the Singapore meeting, Mr. Aquino met Chilean President Sebastian Piñera Echenique, who expressed interest in having Filipino teachers to teach English in Chile and tapping the Philippines know-how to geothermal energy.

"We are being asked to consider bringing in teachers who can teach English as a large part of the population in Chile," Del Rosario said. "We are also being invited to look into a cooperation on aquaculture."

Del Rosario said Chile was particularly interested in establishing a deeper partnership in the mineral energy development with the Philippines, the world's second biggest user of geothermal power.

Energy Secretary Jose Rene Almendras, a member of the Philippine delegation, said Chile was surprised that much of the Philippine's geothermal energy was in private hands.

"The Chilean, they are still looking at a significant government role," Almendras said. "They were quite impressed with the private sector involvement [in the Philippines] because they said they were having difficulties doing that there in Chile."

Almendras said the Philippines promised to help Chile work on a regulatory framework and "some of the things we have done to encourage investments."

Best practices

Del Rosario said President Aquino expressed interest in adopting Chile's tax policies, specifically on mining.

Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima, also a member of the Philippine delegation, said the Philippines was looking to adopt the best practices of Chile in taxing the mining industry.

"Chile is the world's largest exporter of copper and a few years ago they revised the scheme of taxation of their mining industry, that is, they can find exceptional profitability of mining prices. So this is one that we would like to study," Purisima said.

In July President Aquino signed Executive Order No. 79 to implement sweeping reforms in the mining industry, including the imagine ban on mining in 79 sites, a moratorium in new permits, and a push for a higher government share in mining profits.

Purisima said Chile had sent some technical advisers to the Philippines to help the Bureau of Internal Revenue, which has been based pressed to meet collection goals in the last two years.

Chilean invitation

"The President of Chile also invited the President to visit Chile as part of furthering our bilateral relations," Purisima said.

Presidential Communications Secretary Ricky Carandang said in the afternoon where he and 20 other world leaders led by Russian President Vladimir Putin, sat down to exchange views on issues facing the Asia-Pacific region.

MORE in report from AP

BILATERALS: President Aquino meets up with Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong (left) and Chile President Sebastián Piñera during their bilateral meetings on the sidelines of the Apec Leaders' Summit on Russky Island, Vladivostok, on Saturday.

China extends cruise route to Spratlys: On your right is Scarborough

From page B1

political activity, some elected Tourism Organization promoters to foster friendship and understanding among nations, even between nations quarreling over territory in such important parts of the globe as the West Philippine Sea.

The West Philippine Sea is home to major sea lanes vital to global trade. Why, tell tourists, isn't

Filipino and Chinese fishermen have for years been exchanging visits to each other's boats, singing together and sharing drinks, in the disputed Panatag Shoal (Scarborough Shoal) off Zambales province. Their government don't know, until Filipino fishermen began talking about it when Philippine and Chinese ships began facing off with each other after Philippine authorities accosted Chinese fishermen over alleged poaching at the shoal.

Cruise to Spratlys

Chinese state media reported on Saturday that Sanya City, a famed tourist destination in the southern Chinese province of Hainan, is planning to include the island chains of Zhongsha (Macclesfield Bank) and Nansha (Spratlys) in a cruise route under a 10-year tourism development plan.

The report by state-news agency Xinhua published in the English edition of the China Daily said the planned route includes the luxury cruise liner being hosted out in Ruhia Islands (Paracels), one of the major island groups in the West Philippine Sea.

Quoting local officials, Xinhua said the 2012-2022 Sanya City tourism plan "has passed the expert panel's evaluation and is awaiting approval from the provincial authorities" in Hainan.

Earlier this year, Sanya City tourism officials tested out a cruise to Fongsing (Woody Island), the main island in the Paracel archipelago. The Paracels are expected to be opened to tourists within the year, the report said.

The 81-star tourism development plan looks at making Sanya (the) parts of the West Philippine Sea a tourism "international hub and the logistics, financing, processing and trade center in the region," the report said.

It should draw no opposition from other claimants in the West Philippine Sea as long as China does not oppose reciprocal plans from countries in the region with tourism industries.

China is currently almost all of the Spratlys, parts of which are claimed by the Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia, Brunei and Taiwan.

Asked about the Chinese announcement, Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) spokesperson Raul Hernandez said, "We don't have complete information on that yet."

Earlier this year, China established Sansha City on Woody Island, in the Paracels, to administer the island chain and the Spratlys, drawing protests from the Philippines and Vietnam.

Sanya City's announcement came three days after Chinese Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi, speaking at a joint news conference with visiting US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, said China would ensure "freedom and safety of navigation" in the West Philippine Sea.

Guarded optimism

The DFA said it took Yang's statement "with guarded optimism," and asked China to clarify whether it was asserting ownership of the whole of the Spratlys or expressing support for international law.

The Philippines also reiterated that China's claim to the Spratlys is "excessive."

"We take our struggle into itself the unilateral rights; determine or assert the existence or nonexistence of the freedom of navigation in the West Philippine Sea," the DFA said in a statement issued Thursday night. "Rather, the freedom of navigation is an established right that commands respect from everybody as a matter of international obligation."

Apart from overlapping claims to the islands in the Spratlys, the Philippines and China are also dispute, ownership of Recto Bank and Panatag Shoal in two other parts of the West Philippine Sea.

₱12.6B set for 20M poor PhilHealth beneficiaries starting next year

From page B1

enrollment of about 3.3 million families in PhilHealth at ₱2,400 per annum per family. The beneficiaries can reach up to 23 million or even more for the PhilHealth card can be used by the principals' spouses and their minor children," Ordiños said.

"The government will fully pay the health premiums of indigent patients to widen their access to proper medication. It is disturbing to know that, in this modern day, there are still a great number of Filipinos who do not have access to immediate health care," he added.

Ordiños said indigent patients could be found from financial worries "with the new PhilHealth rates payment scheme already in place."

That provides for a no-fault zero billing policy for 15 medical cases which include, among others, dengue, pneumonia, asthma, typhoid fever and appendectomy, he said.

DOJ opinion

The senator added that a Department of Justice (DOJ) opinion issued in March 2012, which authorized the use of ₱6.3 billion by the government to fully avail of the PhilHealth premiums of indigent patients for the current year, would still be in effect in the 2013 budget.

Ordiños said that under the 2012 General Appropriations Act, "the full realization of national government full premium subsidy was subjected to the issuance of a DOJ opinion stating that the move to fully subsidize the health premiums of indigent patients will not violate the Sectional Health Insurance Act (SHIA)."

Ordiños moved last year to include in the budgetary provision that sought the passage of an amendment to the said law before this full national government premium subsidy could be implemented.

He said the SHIA "does not hinder the government to provide full subsidy for premium contributions of indigents and the premium being proposed then was contrary to the policy intent of the law."

"The premium of a health insurance to the poorest Filipinos is consistent with the government's goal to implement the Universal Health Care," Ordiños said.

Government sponsorship

"That is the very reason why I proposed the deletion of a budgetary provision in the 2012 General Appropriations Act amendment in the National Health Insurance Act is necessary before the government can fully subsidize the health premiums of indigent from sponsored members," a category of less privileged families belonging to the "bottom 20" percent of the Philippine population," according to the PhilHealth website (http://www.philhealth.gov.ph/members/sponsored).

PhilHealth coverage provides "inclusive fee for hospital rooms and board fees, drugs and medicines, laboratory exams, use of operating room complex and professional fees for confinements of not less than 24 hours."

P-Noy ordered lockdown; Miriam seeks probe

From page A1

In an ambush interview on the sidelines of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit in Vladivostok, the President said his order was to secure Robredo's offices.

Asked why Puno also went to the custom house, Aquino could have answered that his order also covered the inside and that he was fine with that as long as all the sensitive documents were secured.

Mr. Aquino said he wanted to see to it that documents favorable to the government's position are preserved.

Mr. Aquino said he wanted to see to it that documents favorable to the government's position are preserved.

But Sen. Miriam Defensor Santiago has called for a Senate investigation into the circumstances behind Presidente Aquino's appointment of Internal Undersecretary Jose Rubendo Robredo as the "utusan" if not emissary" authority to counsel the Philippine National Police during the incumbency of the late Interior Secretary Jesse Robredo.

Santiago said she wanted to "unravel" the influential power of Robredo's appointment as the "utusan" of the President to appoint Puno as undersecretary and give him powers over the PNP that, according to her, were asserted only for the department secretary.

Santiago also questioned what she called "anti-Robredo leaks" of Puno on the investigation into Puno's alleged dealings with arms suppliers, illegal loggers and even illegal gambling operators.

"First of all, why is he an impostor until we realize that among the undersecretaries of the DILG, he seems to have been the only one for whom, in whose favor our hall of the powers and functions... were taken away from the DILG secretary and given to him?" Santiago said in a news statement.

She has asked the Senate to look into the circumstances behind Puno's appointment as undersecretary.

Ricky Carandang, one of the Palace communications executives, said on Friday that before his death, Robredo was "conducting a number of very sensitive investigations," but declined to say who or what was being investigated.

It has been reported that after Robredo's plane went missing, and on the front for his body was still under way, Palace, accompanied by police aides, visited the Interior and Local Government, Coast is, to examine sealed and re-possibly shut Mr. Puno's.

"The person or group has quite significant influence to pressure the President to put him there. Who is this person?" Santiago said.

"Because if it is true as it is now being 'hyped' about in the entire country that Mr. Puno is suspected to contain criminal syndicates such as logging, arms dealing, dealing, that is connected through the person, who acted as his patron for him to be in that place in government? That is now on the Internet and in social media," she added.

Santiago said that while the undersecretary has the right to remain silent, he has an obligation to be transparent as a public official.

"Be transparent. If you're in public service, transparently speak up," Santiago said.

Malacañang's silence on the other hand, is an indication of infighting among the factions in the Administration, she said.

"I've been around long enough to know that this kind of complaint never comes from there are video documenting. They just keep fighting for the ear of the President," she said, adding that she sympathizes with Mr. Aquino.

Santiago said there are power plays in every administration, especially when the President is

"Each has its own agenda and the agenda of the Mamlas is whether those involved would turn from the quick, whether they could share in the rumings of another and whether the other side could help in the next elections," she said.

Sept. Oliver Lozano, one of the police officers killed in the ambush, said he was told by Puno that the latter reportedly asked to enter Robredo's condominium, claimed that Mr. Aquino had ordered Puno to "lock down" Robredo's apartment and offices on the night of Aug. 18.

Lozano, who also ordered orders to secure the documents in Robredo's condominium unit at the request of Robredo's wife on Aug. 29 and 31, did not elaborate.

Lozano claimed that on the night of Aug. 18, the President called Puno and ordered the latter "to lock down all the offices and personal belongings" of the late cabinet secretary. He said Puno and the police officers went to Robredo's apartment and office the next day to carry out the order.

It is also unclear what Puno was referring to when he told Lozano that "we lock down all the offices and personal belongings" of the late cabinet secretary. He said Puno and the police officers went to Robredo's apartment and office the next day to carry out the order.

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Robredo opened probe into Puno's ₱600-M ammo project

By Rolyn dela Cruz
Correspondent at Large

SAGUIG (The Investigation) Being carried out by Interior Secretary Jesse Robredo before he died on Aug. 18 was a P600-million deal involving the procurement of ammunition for the Philippine National Police.

The purchase would require a Direct release of funds from the Department of Budget and Management (DBM).

The proponent of the purchase was his undersecretary who oversees the PNP, Rico E. Puno.

A source at the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) told the Inquirer that the purchase came under a supposedly "secret" part of a redesigned version of the Combat, Clothing and Individual Equipment (CCIE) program for the PNP that had long been scrapped because of abuse in the use of funds and fictitious purchases.

"No one has initiated any investigation into how this procurement process is done until Jesse Robredo became secretary of the DILG," the source, who asked not to be named for obvious reasons, said.

The inner circle is called Police Supply Equipment (PSE), which allows the purchase of large quantities of supplies like ammunition through an authorized unit within the PNP.

All firearms and ammunition purchases must pass through the PNP Firearms and Explosive Unit, or PNP-FEU. Puno's proposed acquisition was an exception.

The source said Robredo launched an investigation to determine the circumstances surrounding of the PNP and examine it against the actual needs of policemen.

The investigation began a few months before the Aug. 18 plane crash in Masbate province that killed Robredo and two others.

"What Robredo wanted from answers to legitimate questions and the only problem with that investigation was that it was the first of its kind," the source said.

"Puno was never a question about the use of this system in ordering the purchase of firearms and ammunition until Robredo came," the source, speaking in Filipino, added.

The investigation centered on Puno's office and certain PNP units, including the PEU, the source said.

Puno was aware of the investigation, the source said, adding that he had an idea how far it had gone and whether the President knew about it.

Malacañang confirmed on Friday that Robredo was investigating sensitive matters when he died, but did not explain what was being investigated or whether Puno was involved.

Paje: Robredo 'confronted' antilogging task force head

From page A1

asked arrested Maj. Gen. Ernesto Mirando to explain why he met with an association of wood processors in Caraga, which owners Agusan del Norte, Agusan del Sur, Surigao del Sur and Dinagat Islands.

Paje said he still treated Mirando but that he found it necessary to investigate the allegations of Robredo if there, who accused Mirando, along with other officials, of protecting illegal loggers and financiers in Caraga region.

"There was worrying information that (late, Mirando met with the producers of plywood and lumber in a restaurant in Caraga, in Jesse confronted him about it," Paje said in a phone interview.

The information had come from Robredo's informant, Ouano, who was later interrogated by Robredo as Special Assistant to the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), according to Paje.

Mirando, however, categorically denied suggestions that the meeting was irregular. He explained to Robredo that the meeting, sometime in late July or early August, was only to be about certain issues affecting the forest concessionaires in Caraga, Paje said.

"General Mirando said it was an open meeting, not a clandestine one, and that it was his effort of getting information. So when Jesse asked why it had to be in a restaurant, he (Mirando) answered that the most effective way of extracting information was by asking it casually," he said.

Paje said he was unsure if it was Robredo or Mirando who made the first call but the two later had an the DILG head office.

Asked how he learned of the incident, Paje said: "The one who told me about the worrying report was Secretary Robredo, but the one who told me about their meeting was (also Robredo."

Paje said Robredo often called him about problems in enforcing the anti-illegal logging campaign, but the first of Ouano's two reports dated Aug. 11 did not come up in their conversations. For several days, the report was dated Aug. 18, the same day Robredo's plane crashed off Masbate. Ouano presumably Robredo never got to read it.

He said the DILG investigation was actually prompted by Paje's report on the irregularities in the Caraga-based anti-illegal logging operations in Mindanao into police or military operations as the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) "Task no Evil" operation" in the anti-illegal logging campaign.

Paje also recalled asking the

First woman judge Almeda-Lopez rich in milk of kindness

From page A1

justice and compassion.

It did not come as a surprise to her family that she signed up at 15 to become a member of the La Protección de la Infancia (La), the country's first charity organization founded in 1907 which aims to quit underprivileged support for its Gota de Leche program, dedicated to ending starvation, malnutrition and infant mortality in the aftermath of the Philippine-American War.

Almeda-Lopez was born in 1892, the eldest of six daughters of Manuel Conore Almeda of Bulacan, Laguna, a pharmacist who became a colonel in the Philippine Revolution against Spain, and Severina Montero Lerma of Santa Cruz, Laguna.

Severina was the eldest daughter of Jose Lerma, the talented Chinese contractor who made his fortune building the many churches, schools and other structures of the Catholic Church. Lerma's Severina was also known as the "mayor" of the Chinese part of Manila, known as "Kapitan Tiong" in his Hokkien neighborhood.

The Lerma-Conore family were cousins of the Mercados, the family of national hero, Jose Rizal.

One of Almeda-Lopez's earliest memories was being carried on the shoulders of her father to witness the "procession" that took Rizal to his place of execution at the Luneta.

The young Almeda-Lopez may have experienced herself working as a doctor to treat the hundreds of survivors and children orphaned by battles as the Alimbuds forces slaughtered outdoor and burned homes.

But her dream of studying medicine was shattered when the family lost its money after a predatory court decision from the Lerma-Almeda sisters.

She was forced to get a job to help her father support the family, while still holding on to her dream of a professional career. She enrolled in the only course available to her after only hours — the two-year normal course to become a public school teacher.

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HISTORY-MAKING: Maricel Almeda-Lopez was the first woman judge, first woman Court of Appeals justice in an age of rampant gender discrimination

quezon spokesperson for women's rights even at a young age, protesting her case with Robredo. There was an audience in the media through her writings, in public forums, and in the legislature, then known as the Philippine Assembly.

She was 26 when she delivered a speech in favor of Philippine Assembly on Nov. 22, 1918, asserting that men and women should have equal rights.

"The arrant difference that distinguish us separate us from men are not examples to justify the inferiority, inequality of our rights. May the Assembly never use this pretext to deny us the human rest, and our humanity as the manner of all our rights.

"Senator (an influential colonial parliamentarian and executive) intimated, but it does not change the qualities of the individual. And the reason, neither should it change the rights of the individual. Because the Philippines can have and determine before the prisoner and parolee order, both sexes should be equal," she said.

The Bureau of Justice hired Almeda-Lopez in 1919 and she worked her way up to become chief of the bureau's division of records, clerk-in-charge and determine before the prisoner and parolee order, both sexes should be equal," she said.

In 1924, she married Atty. Ruperto Lopez, former governor of Tayabas and Mambulao, and a widower with four children, the Bethel convent and lived independently of her husband. Lopez had an assistant attorney general in Manila, while he remained in Lucena to practice law.

She also retained her surname, offering her husband's name, as unusual decision for the time.

Almeda-Lopez, she was duly sworn in during City Judge of the City Court of Manila, until President Manuel Quezon appointed her permanently to the post in 1934.

After serving on the board of La Protección for 26 years, Almeda-Lopez was elected president of the charity in 1936.

As if having a full-time job and running a charitable organization was not enough, she joined other women suffragists in the nationwide campaign for a "yes" vote in the plebiscite on the Commonwealth Constitution, which submitted to Filipino women finally winning the right to vote in 1937.

Always in a hurry, Almeda-Lopez also obtained her master's degree in law from the University of Santo Tomas in 1937, and her law secretary to lead the police operations in Mindanao, as they were becoming increasingly dangerous due to BIFF's activities.

Despite her connection, Mirando said he would willingly quit to clear his name of the allegations that he was protecting illegal loggers.

"I am willing to resign my post and submit myself to the investigation if only to save the organization," he said. He also said he would resign on the spot if anybody could produce concrete proof of hostility out illegal logging in the region.

Mirando and Brig. Gen. Oscar Rebuyas had summoned him to his office in Cotabato on the issues about the "worrying information" about

a week before the secretary died.

He added that, "since I drinking with the enemy?" But, I explained to Secretary Robredo that the report is false. It included my dialogues with the loggers and wood processors because I wanted to find out the true picture of the problem," he said once the phone.

In his report, he said he told Robredo that the anti-illegal logging campaign should continue with socio-economic support for the affected communities.

Mirando said it was a shame that the Dept. 8 logging duty was cut short by the time he spoke out that the issues raised by Ouano had already been "cleared" with Robredo.

After 40 years, Azkals topple Singapore

By Cedelf P. Tupas

SINGAPORE—Fueled by a virtuoso performance from Stephan Schrock and the quality finishing of Chieffy Caligdong and Phil Younghusband, the Philippines finally broke a long winless spell against Singapore with a 2-0 thumping Friday night at the Jurong West Stadium here.

In one of the limited side's finest performances, Caligdong and Younghusband supplied the finish to well-crafted scissor-assisting moves as the Filipinos won for the first time in 40 years—and if the traditional powerhouse of Southeast Asia.

Both teams were making use of the friendly match to sharpen up for the AFF Suzuki Cup in November, but for a Filipino side always aching to prove itself, the win meant so much more.

"It's always believed that we could be there with the best in Southeast Asia and tonight we were able to prove that somehere we are actually very, very good in the region," said Azkals manager Dan Palami.

"It's a massive statement," said defender Schrock. Azkals coach Michael Weiss. "But definitely by far we're still not at the level where we could be."

Against the run of play, Schrock found Caligdong, whose classy right-footed finish took a fortunate bounce of a tough punch of grace in front of goal before finding the back of the net.

Younghusband seized on a couple of early misses with a left-footed strike in the 45th that came after Schrock floated a measured ball in to his path just outside the box.

Caligdong could have made it 3-nil when he fired home a cross from Carli de Murga in the 62nd minute, but only managed a low save from Singapore goalkeeper Hyrulnizam Juma'at.

Singapore actually had the first clear-cut chance when Aleksandr Ivanovski was stopped by Neil Etheridge in the fourth minute. The Lions had a goal disallowed for offside in the 36th minute when Raoul Biscara tapped in from close range and almost forced an own goal when Etheridge fumbled a header by Hafiz Sujad into his own net.

Schrock found Phil Younghusband for the second goal in the 45th minute. He also set up Chieffy Caligdong for the opener in the 5th minute.

Schrock however refused to take credit for the Azkals' performance.

"It is difficult if you don't know the movement and the skills of the other players," said Schrock who plays for FSV Hallenstein. "I have to watch the first 15 minutes to study them, but I'm in a good squad so its not difficult to adjust right away."

STEPHEN Schrock comes up big for the Azkals again. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO/RAFFY DAMAYO

Small piece of puzzle? It doesn't seem so

By Cedelf P. Tupas

SINGAPORE—Stephan Schrock said he's just a small piece of the puzzle in the success of the national side.

That statement belied what transpired Friday night when the Philippines stunned Singapore, 2-0, Friday night at Jurong West Stadium here.

Playing his first international since the scoreless draw with Malaysia last June, Schrock had an influential role, producing two assists that boosted the Azkals to their first victory over the Lions in a long time.

Showing confidence and swagger that the Azkals missed in recent matches, Schrock epitomized the Azkals with a strong display, flashing all the skills that made him a sought-after prospect in the German Bundesliga last season.

"Yahwahtzy was obviously the star of the show," said defender Rob Gier.

After disconcerting Singapore veteran midfielder Shahrulc Fahrudin, Schrock found Chieffy Caligdong for the second goal in the 45th minute.

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Finland sends PH out of World Pool

By Mycaeg R. Cavallo

FINLAND last night took out the last—and most loved—Philippine side in the World Cup of Pool after Efren Reyes managed only barely from Jeremy Maldonado's dominated Efren Reyes and Dennis Bedonia in a 9-5 quarterfinal victory at Robinson's Manila Activity Center.

Unranked Lukas Vauhkonen, 17, had to face coming up with the brilliance that eventually led to the clan drawing a second limited room the door after Finland had ousted defending champion Germany just two nights ago.

Next up for the Finns will be the feisty team pair of Mateo Bautista and Rodney Morris, who served a 9-6 victory over China in the afternoon.

Reyes and Bedonia, who were seeking to become the first tandem to win this event twice, never got to settle down, hanging so many golden capped bottles early in the round-by-round log, and then in the middle of the match that left a huge hometown crowd stunned.

Unnerved, the former World and United Home 8-Ball champion, dismayed his side's elimination of Dee Filipino by drawing a difficult 7-9 combo to wrap up the match.

Taiwan's Fan Han-yu and Chen Fan-ting eked out a 9-8 victory over the English pair of Darren Appleton and Chris Melling to advance opposite the Polish team of Karol Skowronski and Przejecki Sroczynski, 9-6 winners over Italy's Fabio Petroni and Bruno Muscolino.

Van Boening-Morris almost blew an 8-2 lead before eliminating two-time champion China's Li Hi-Wei and Liu Haitao.

The Taiwanese, playing the $250,000 event for the first time, clash with Poland at 1 p.m. today before the other Final four matches up the Czech Republic and Finland.

The table match is scheduled at 4 p.m.

"We got lucky there at the end," the lucky Efren is said. "But if you look back, they got really lucky too when they were scoring back. So three things were one."

"It's awesome because all we have to do is win two more matches and are into the World Cup of Pool," the Boening said.

Azarenka ousts Sharapova, faces Williams next

NEW YORK—Normally so good, so gifting in the crucible of the third set, Maria Sharapova finally lost her match in Victoria Azarenka in their US Open semifinal on Friday.

Coming off the worst back-to-back s ser and a break down, the top-seeded Azarenka prevailed in a stirring third, beating four-time Grand Slam champion Sharapova, 7-6, 6-2, 6-4, to reach her first US Open final.

Sharapova had been 12-0 in three-set matches this year and had won 76 consecutive matches in which she took the opening set, dating back to 2010.

On Saturday Australian Open champion Azarenka will play in her second major final of the season—and second against 14-time Grand Slam champion Serena Williams, seeking a fourth title at Flushing Meadows. The fourth-seeded Williams overwhelmed 10th-seeded Sara Errani of Italy 6-1, 6-2.

Williams, trying to become the first 30-year-old woman to win the US Open since Martina Navratilova in 1987, compiled a 38-0 edge in winners to her 6-0 unforced-error edge against Errani. AP

INQUIRER IN EDUCATION bench/ present

EARTH HEALERS

In celebration of its 25th anniversary, Bench is teaming up with Inquirer In Education on a new story for young readers to be serialized in the learning section beginning September 10 and every Monday thereafter until October 15.

"Earth Healers," written in six chapters by Palanca award-winner Cyan Abad-Jugo and illustrated by Inquirer artist Steph Bonoc, is the story of a young boy who saves his mining town from a bigger earthquake with the help of a white cow, a black cat and other caring creatures.

This will be the 5th Bench-supported IE Social Reading Program for Grades 4 to 6 students.

For this new series, Bench is donating copies of the Inquirer for use by the students of partner teachers in their classrooms and, for the first time, by selected homeschoolers.

Catoning Elementary School • Cembo Elementary School • Dela Salle University-Carbidong • Erda Foundation • Eulogio Rodriguez Integrated School • Gabaldon Elementary School • Good Shepherd Montessori Academy of Iloilo • Hen. Pio del Pilar Elementary School • Highway Hills Integrated School • Isaac Lopez Integrated School • J. Zamora Elementary School • Kalayaanan Elementary School • Nadia F. Bonoan Elementary School • Old Balara Elementary School • Pangdacaan Elementary School • Salapan Elementary School • Tolay sa Don Bosco • Sienna College-Taytay • Tubokal Elementary School • Vine Cubao Elementary School • Yagumbo Elementary School

Happy 25th anniversary, Bench!

Pucay salvages top 10 finish

SHAH ALAM, Selangor, Malaysia—Mark Pucay snapped a winning weekend streak with a 5-under par 67 Saturday to salvage a top 10 finish in the Worldwide Holdings Selangor Masters where his compatriot Jewel Alaba finished dead last after outstanding in the first three rounds.

Carrying the momentum of a 68 in the third round after earlier scores of 75-71, Pucay teamed up with a 279 total to tie for eighth place with Marcus Booth of Australia, seven strokes behind Thailand's Thaweesin Wiratchant who claimed a record 14th Asian Tour title.

Pucay picked up $5,844 for his strongest finish in the current Tour although it was Alaba who held the spotlight among the Filipinos at the start of the final 18 holes as he trailed Wiratchant by four strokes in a tie for third with earlier rounds of 68-69-71.

But in a cruel turnaround, the rookie Alaba completely lost his touch, struggling home with a weekend duffer's score of 80 (45-35) to end up in 73rd place at 10-over 298.

Miguel Tabuena, the defending Tour champion in the last two events with a 70-68, tied for 19th at 283 and won $4,108. Antonio Lascuña had a 284 worth $3,919 while Angelo Que was three strokes back at 287 and earned $2,420.

As last place, Alaba won $806.

The 40-year-old Thaweesin shot a three-under par 69 in the final round for a winning total of 16-under par 272 at Kota Permai Golf and Country Club. Asian Tour News

BOWLED OVER Lara Posadas (center) holds her trophy and cash prize after topping the women's event 2nd Generation Mid Taipei Bowling Club (CMTBC) Cosmo International Open Tournament (CICBL). Lucia Sue Cosmo Mall. With Posadas are (from left) CMTBC president Sabryn Cabatana, Cosmo Points' Glyzen Rosal, 1st runner-up Kristah Tabora, 2nd runner-up Sarai Miranda, Philippine Bowling Congress president Tan Lopa, and CMTBC vice president Charlie Colombo.

Roxona run gets going

The P 300 Plateau Run in pursuing through on Sept. 23 at SM Mall of Asia grounds in Pasay, with participants vying for cash prizes in three divisions.

A part of the Buena Series, this year's edition was originally scheduled Aug. 12 but inclement weather forced its postponement.

The 21K Solo will award P71,000, P5,000, and P4,000 to the podium finishers while the 21K Relay each runner-team completes 10.5K each) top three finishers will get P5,000, P4,000, and P3,000. Finishers in the 5K event are P3,000, P2,000 and P1,000.

Persons will also challenge runners to beat the "industry standard," wherein commemorative top chasers will be given to finishers who meet the pace set or before the 5K and 10K finishing times. To qualify, the runners must cross the finish line on or before 0:28:a.m., while all 10 runners must to finish on or before 1 a.m.

For inquiries, interested runners may call/text 0927-3451705, 0905-9151694 or 8890-6944.

Manny has trouble with right hand dead

ST. ANTHONY: Rep. Manny Pacquiao is left with no other choice but to fight "El Diamante" Juan Manuel Marquez for a fourth time this December — either in Dallas, Vegas or in Houston, Australia's newspaper, where the Filipino stands to earn $7 million or more.

Duran: Kevin Maynard Cutts, who lost to the fighting congressman about two years ago, is one of the pictures since he refuses to go down a fourth round-night.

IN HUDDLE

Boots Cotto

The undefeated Tim Bradley of the other hand, has two things going against him. First, he is a big pin-pin-shoo. Big- and second, he has poised himself double... easy shower when the fight promoter wants to pay him.

As for Floyd Mayweather Jr., well, who knows? Maybe even you.

• • •

To be honest, the thoughts of another Pacquiao-Marquez thriller kind of gives me a chill.

Even Manny's own trainer Freddie Roach admits he's wary. He told in a TV news interview that Marquez is a tricky, **intelligent fighter who also has speed.** In this interview, Roach admitted that the first three duo in all of the three Pacquiao-Marquez fights, he failed to solve Marquez's "right hand lead" and to this day that remains their biggest problem and El Dyabolito's biggest advantage.

Does he solve this problem and win two, Manny must really hard for this fourth fight with Marquez. Roach said the eight-division world champion would lose.

• • •

"What's a right hand lead?" I asked boxing expert Quintin Chanco.

"A southpaw uses it a lot, that punch is a combination, could be a jab but usually a straight," he replied.

But what has usually been unreliable he said, is not the right lead, but Marquez's counter right-cross.

"Marquez is a counterpuncher. Also he's right-handed, he jabs with his left, sometimes he uses a right lead but it's a combination. It's the counter right straight down the pipe that Manny finds hard to elude," Quintin explained.

He believes "it could be very dangerous" if the projected fourth fight is staged in Mexico.

• • •

When Mandaue governor Max Seglenieks announced that the Bebot would be parading a "dazzling new throwback" for retired numbers this season, the image that came to my mind was that of Mar Cardona, Sol Mercado, Chris Jim and the rest of the Bulu wearing very, very shiny.

Who all don't the only who lose in a basketball uniform that I can think of.

Well, the PBA's 37th season is set to open, "The 2012-2013 symbols emblem of the Bebot will reflect the glorious days of the Mercado team in the '80s but without the drool cheese and the buckles," he said, describing the new jerseys as an "Iconic explosion" worn by the Bebot, then called the Teddy Bilbocrats, during the MICAA days.

"But looking at the Mercado players in those bright orange uniforms, will surely make the fans nostalgic," he said. "We want to preserve our heritage."

• • •

According to Max, the Bebot rebuilding process is going very well. "Rookie Cliff Hodge promises to be a significant factor. Ryan Reavis will not miss any and defensively while Mac, Sol and Chris will continue to be the team's 1-2-3 punch. I expect a better Bebot team this season," Max said, confirming that Asi Taulava has chosen to play in the team basketball league next season. Although they allowed him a max, max, max amount.

"We offered Asi a big, competitive and equitable two-year package. While he never got right to sign it in the PBA, he is free to do Bebot and the pro league," said Max.

According to reports, Asi was offered a further 3-year contract by San Miguel in the ABL.

PH draws with Vietnam

By Ray Luarca

ISTANBUL, Turkey—The Philippines found Southeast Asian rival Vietnam hard to crack Friday and settled for a 2-2 standoff in the 40th Chess Olympiad here.

Both handling Mark Cendaminam Mark Paragua and Oliver Barbosa had to weather fierce attacks by International Master Nguyen Duc Hai and GM Nguyen Ngoc Truong Son before getting the half points on boards 2 and 4.

Despite aggressive play with white, on the other hand, GMs Wesley So and Eugene Torre couldn't gain headway against GM Le Quang Liem and IM Nguyen Anh Khoi on boards 1 and 3, depriving the Filipinos a chance to notch a boot-over finish in the biennial meet.

Instead, with 14 match points in three after 10 rounds that list, the Filipinos have a huge hurdle to a top 10 finish.

They not only need to stun the Russians in the 11th and final round Sunday following a tournament break Saturday, but they must also hope that those with 15 points and above 16 points like the Vietnamese don't win.

A team also organized by Torre lasted seventh in the 1998 Thessaloniki, Greece, Olympiad.

Ukraine, Armenia and top seed Russia are already beyond the Filipinos' reach with 17 points. China, which downed the United States (2.5-1.5) Friday, has the toughest last assignment in defending champion Ukraine, which is still in contention with 16 points.

Five-time champion Russia tackles Germany while Armenia has to knock winner in the 2006 Turin, Italy, and 2008 Dresden, Germany editions, batten Hungary starting at 3 p.m. in Manila time).

With Le Chi (2693) and Tuong Anh Gia (2630) having high ratings, the Vietnamese, who last won the overall chess title in the 2011 SEA Games held in Indone-

HEMMING of the Philippine chess team ponder their next moves against their Vietnamese foes.

sia, are seeded 22nd, three notch higher than the Filipinos.

Surprisingly, it was only the first Olympiad meeting between the Philippines and Vietnam, which posted its best showing at ninth place in Dresden.

Torre leads in chief winning duties, Paragua and Tibo signed on before the point after 46 moves of a Ruy Lopez Italian Defense while Barbosa, who survived a heavy kingside attack, and Truong Son Nguyen ended after 50 moves of a Slav.

The 40-year-old Torre (2649) said Dresden team (8/10) decided to split the point after 34 moves of an Italian Game while So and two-time no-nonsense Le ended the draw after 39 moves of a Queen's Gambit Declined.

With 20 game points, the Philippines is disputing Group B teams rated 32-021 honors with No. 23 Uzbekistan, which tops 36 points like Vietnam.

In the Women's division, the Filipinos struggled to forge a 2-2 draw with the lowly Malaysians and must prevail over Bosnia & Herzegovina Sunday to have their 44th place effort in the 2008 Khanty-Mansiysk Olympiad.

Jan Jodilyn Fronda stunned Camille Jebari on board 4 while Janelle Mae Frayna drew with Woman Candidate Master Nur Nabila Sumsar Hakam to give the Philippines its headcount.

Jedina Cinches, however, yielded to Li Ting Tat on board 3 and Woman International Master Catherine Perena could only draw against WIM Nadya Aanan Hakam on board 1 for the equalizer.

SHAKEY'S V-LEAGUE

Ateneo takes 2nd crack at semis slot today

By Jeanine W. Poyo

ATENEO and Philippine Navy, both fighting for the last semifinal berth, close for crucial twice-to-beat encounters in the Shakey's V-League Open today at Rizal Memorial Coliseum.

The Lady Eagles—who recently blew a chance to complete the Final Four cast—go for another shot against defending champion Philippine Army at 4 p.m.

After gaining upshot in Ateneo, the Lady Sailors try to keep their semifinal bid alive against the winless De La Salle University in the 2 p.m. first game.

"We really thought we're out of it, but we were given a chance," Navy coach Sonic Montes said in Filipino. "So it's important that we win our last two games."

Standings: San Sebastian rises to keep Ateneo in lead against Cagayan Valley in the 6 p.m. nightcap.

The Lady Stags (7-1), the Rising Suns (6-2) and the Lady Troopers (5-2) have already secured the final three semifinal slots.

Last Tuesday, the Lady Eagles (5-3) could have claimed the last spot, but the fifth-seeding Lady Sailors (3-6) pulled off a five-set upset, 23-25, 19-25, 27-25, 25-23, behind Kitch Bacate.

But the ninth semifinalists are far from received as the top three all aim to clinch the top berth.

NLEX expecting tough road with retooled roster

By Jeanine W. Poyo

NLEX hopes to duplicate its dominance even with a retooled roster when the new PBA D-League season unfolds next month.

Coach Boyet Fernandez said his Road Warriors hope to build around new recruits Greg Slaughter and Nico Salva of Ateneo following the departure of nine players in the pro league.

"It will be tough for the new recruits," said Fernandez, who also tapped Ateneo's Eric Camson and Adrian's Opiza Jr.standing. "They have big shoes to fill."

The league has recently approved to increase the players' age limit from 26 to 26, allowing teams to tap more fire agents from the pro level.

More teams also aim to challenge the Road Warriors' bid for a fourth straight crown as host Arellano University-Intramuros and UTC Philippines—recently sent their letters of intent to join the league.

"Many teams have beefed up their rosters," said Fernandez, who lost key cogs Calvin Abueva, Chris Ellis and last conference's MVP Cliff Hodge.

Completing the core are last conference rainier sip Big Chill, Blackwater Sports, Cabuyao Untelliez, Boracay Rum, Cagayan Rising Suns, Cebu Fryers and Davao Phantoms.

Bianca joins Team Carpio

SEVEN-year-old Bianca Bustamante (front) is looking at a brighter future as she chases karting honors.

NEWCOMER Bianca Icasiano Bustamante is shortly entering her rookie season in karting as she joins the Pro Formula Gadet Master in the 2012 Asian Karting Open Championship series recently at Carmona Racetrack.

Bianca, the 7-year-old daughter of former karter Raymund Bustamante, will now trade under Indonesia karting license as she competes in a 342 cc make her mark in the sport.

Carpio, who recently launched his Formula E Racing Management, was the director of Tyson by and Jed Bustamante when they were the country's top karters and is CZ Rule maestro this season.

Bustamante was sixth in the qualifying time trials clocking 54.621 seconds and ended sixth in the 12-man eliminator qualifying heat. After finishing ninth overall in the Cadet, she rallied to reach the podium.

Carpio hinted that local riders are just part of Bustamante's preparations for a series of karting races.

"I should commend her for her determination and racing discipline which were far more exemplary than other kids under my helm before," said Carpio.

Legaspi, Yee return fuels SPC, La Salle

MULTITITLED Miss Legaspi and Miggy Yee returned to local jetsprint action and powered St. Paul's College and La Salle Greenhills to the top in the Girls 1 and Juniors-A divisions, respectively of the ICTSI-SSPF Inter-school gold meet yesterday.

Competing under the popular World champion, fired a four-under par 58 at Ayala Greenfield and, with the 12-of Daniella Ty, St. Paul's 111 opened up a hefty 35-point lead over runners, while finished with a 76 in the division for the combined girls and high school field.

Overshadowed by Legaspi's solid form was the return to jetsprint competition of former standouts Paulina Xenia, who led scoring for Ateneo with a 48, and Christine Fajardo, who did not count with a 53. Nicole Barrera's 36 was Ateneo's second best score.

As Agustinian, she mixed up some for his team after a long absence, shooting a one-over 32 to capture the Open division title over JP de Claro, who both had 49s, for a 15-1 start score and a 10-point lead over La Salle-Zobel in the tournament backed by the ICTSI and also sponsored by Nicolas Homer Group, Kiefer Pepper and Philippine Airlines.

Rama Reyes needed 69 strikes to edge Miguel Abalos and Angelo Ogena (both at 40) and 44, respectively, for La Salle-Zobel.

UCAT-A was running third at 116, Ateneo-I at 122.

Legaspi and Yee were running 1-2 in the individual race while teammate Natalie Cruz was sharing third at 58 with Sama Gonzales of ISA.

Circuit races get going

CIRCUIT Racing returns to the scene as the country's finest drivers battle for crucial wins in the fifth and penultimate leg of the 2012 Yokohama Philippine GT Championship Series today at Batangas Racing Circuit.

Defending champion Vincent Pinlenda and lady Gutierrez gear up for another epic and grueling showdown for the title.

Sitting up the day is the third leg of the Pilot Formula Philippines 200.2 where Kimiko Hirao tackles a bigger field vying for the crown.

Pinlenda, currently second overall with 157 points, is setting his eyes on a big sweep of both the Sprint and Final race in the GT300 class to give his Engen Ice a back-to-back crown in his pole.

Gutierrez, who won several touring car crowns, is looking to extend to a new leader in his cup as he goes for his first GT crown.

For details, call 7207041 to 42, 7265865 or 0a 8447196.

CHAMP Charles Hong receives his prize money from Phil Fernandez (left), terminal manager of ICTSI subsidiary Mindanao International Container Terminal Services, and Pedido Ang, gm of manager Clifford Chan for capping the sleeping Richard Bolongaita grand slam in the P1-million ICTSI Pedido de Oro Golf Championship last Friday.

RAMPA Medal of Ust' (front) shares a loose ball off UP's Paolo Romero and Mirko Mitch Ricci finished with 21 rebounds.

Sunday SPORTS

E-mail at: sports@inquirer.com.ph
Website: www.inquirer.net/sports

Editor Teddyboy S. Philandras
Assistant Editor Francis T. J. Cebrian

Tigers trip Maroons; Tams halt Warriors

By Jasmine N. Payo

UNIVERSITY of Santo Tomas stands the surest cut of southern late Wednesday of the #Philippine midseason, surging with a 10-0 run in the final quarter to hack out a 75-68 triumph in the UAAP men's basketball tournament yesterday at Mall of Asia Arena.

Aljun Melecio and Aris Dionisio fueled the huge comeback in just a three-minute span as the Tigers took a 70-59 advantage after playing catch-up most of the game.

"The will to win was there, especially in the last quarter," said coach Pido Jarencio after his Tigers—who entered just half a game behind league leader Ateneo at 9-3—ventured at least a playoff for a Final four slot.

The Eastern University also unleashed a pumped-up University of the East side, 83-70, just a day after the Tamaraws' disturbed a boardroom late.

Terrence Romeo outmarked 24 points, including back-to-back triples that gave the Tamaraws a 75-64 buffer after the Warriors had streamed their double-digit lead to 69-64.

FEU had shared the second spot with UST, but wound up tried at 8-3 after the UAAP feared on Friday midnight for Tamaraws' 77-73 win over Nov Nomad Universe, where #10 Garvin nailed a contentious buzzer-beater.

The #10 (#1) game replay had been set on Sept. 23.

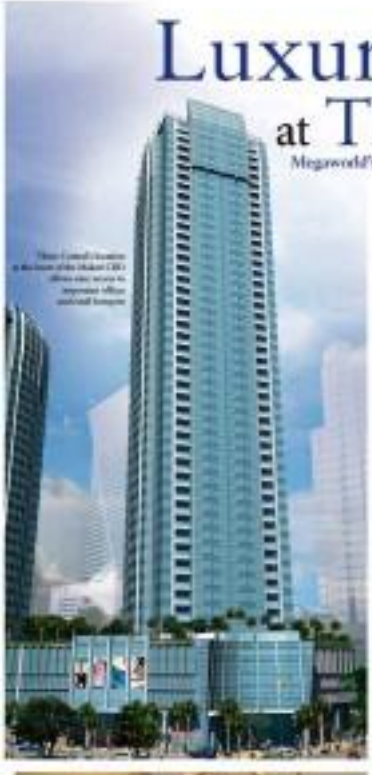
Roger Pogoy also collected 17 points, 12 rebounds, four assists and two blocks for the Tamaraws.

The Tamaraws ended the Warriors' magical runs game was where Chris Javier hosted two consecutive game-winners in back-to-back deadens, the last one four-time champ-pions thrown.

The Tigers, capitalizing on the Warriors' turnovers in the endgame, completed their straight three-point plays. Julian Mariano drilled seven straight numbers that put them up, 59-50, after a 9-4 SO deficit.

"It just happened so fast," said Jarencio. "Those players are really like dead."

The Maroons, who had figured in several endgame collapse this season, decided to 1-11, while the also-ran Warriors fell to 3-9.



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Notable landmarks are only a stroll down away as well. Prestigious schools like the Mapua Institute of Technology-Makati, Ateneo Professional Schools and Centro Escolar University are just within the vicinity. While our health and lifestyle needs are comfortably addressed through the nearby Makati Medical Center and the Makati Golf Club Driving Range.

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San Beda whips JRU; EAC scores

By Cazzell P. Tapao

ANN BEDA overwhelmed Jose Rizal U's offense in the second half for a 67-43 victory last night that tightened the Lions' grip of top spot in the 88th NCAA basketball tournament at Filoil Flying V Arena in San Juan.

Baser on scoring top spot and the twice-to-beat incentive that goes with it in the Final Four, the Lions stormed back from an early deficit by holding the Heroes to just 17 points in the last two quarters and moved to within a victory of a postseason berth with an 11-2 card.

"It's the second round and we cannot afford to lose if we want that No. 1 spot," said forward John Sherrod, who joined forces with Stanley Arnaiz in spearheading the Lions' breakaway in the third period.

The Heroes, like Perpetual Help, dropped to 6-5.

Emilio Aguinaldo College caught fire in the final period and erased the Perpetual Help, 73-71, in the first game.

The Generals climbed out of a 17-point hole in the second half with a flurry of triples in the fourth quarter to stave off the Altas' last ditch charge and went on to score only their fifth win against 11 games.

The natural shades of the kitchen are complemented by a combination of wooden chairs and stools accented with quirky, patterned touches—tiles and pillows.

The master bedroom features circular patterns juxtaposed with rectangular lines set up against the wall, providing a contemporary feel to the luxurious surroundings (model unit pictured).

Aplus METRO
Editor Joseph Voltaire L. Contreras

From 'basurera' to ballerina

Tondo teen a dancing diamond in the rough

By Erika Sauler

WEARING tights and pointe shoes, her hair tied neatly into a bun, 14-year-old Jessa Balote regularly goes to ballet lessons to train in the Russian Vaganova method.

For a few hours of vigorous rehearsals, she steps out, twirls and glides a world away from the place she calls home, where backwash frequently lose their river, neighbors gossip at grimy dribbles run around, and petty crimes and senseless killings are not uncommon.

The stink in Aroma, the housing project where she lives, near a dump in Tondo, Manila, never goes away. Garbage lines the muddy alleyways as men of the residents pick through trash for a living. The residential buildings, more like townhouses partitioned only by plywood, have no running water and toilets.

From such environs came this ballerina diamond in the rough. "It's chaotic. Violence fights erupt and people gossip a lot," said Balote, a dancer scholar of Ballet Manila School.

Finding a career in the high art of ballet was elsewhere far from the mind of the young girl who used to scour the streets for recyclables in order to have food on the table, a drudgery which her elder sisters continue to do.

"I never dreamt of being a ballerina," she said. "But I enjoy dancing."

A rare opportunity came in 2008 when she was encouraged by her teachers to audition for a scholarship program of Ballet Manila run by prima ballerina Lisa Macuja-Elizalde.

From years after earning a slot in Project Ballet Pandesal, Jessa is now a company apprentice and earns a modest but steady stipend apart from performance honoraria.

"Now I can provide for my family's needs. We can buy food and pay our electricity bills from my allowance," she said in an Inquirer interview.

Jessa recently made it as a finalist in the Junior B category of the Asian Grand Prix for young dancers held in Hong Kong, with her performance of Le Ville Mal Gardee Gas variation.

Asked about her first memories from the ship, she said, eyes akin: "We went to Disneyland!"

But the competition itself was no walk in the park. During the final round, Elizalde recalled, Jessa's performance encountered a problem. "Her music stopped. Even for the most experienced performers, that would be very exciting. What more for a girl of her age," she said.

"If you look at the story of her life, it was a feat to become a finalist after only three and a half years of training. And she's already wrestling pointe shoes and doing a solo," Elizalde said of the young talent.

Balote had also performed in the Ballet Manila productions of "Swan Lake," "Walking Giselle" at Lola Basyang" and the recent "Siarnaq: Si Gat-Indan Si Gumara."

"Her body is flexible and she has beautifully shaped legs," Elizalde noted, though pointing out that "but No. 1 advantage over her contemporaries is that she's hardworking."

Project Ballet Pandesal started out simply as a free summer workshop held at the parish of Blessed Quezon City residents. It now has 50 dance scholars trained by Ballet Manila in Pasay City.

A DANCE scholarship has transformed 14-year-old Jessa Balote into a figure of beauty and grace, a world away from the slums of Tondo where the young talent was discovered (below). | LAUTAN GARCIA LUMBAO

New NCRPO chief tells men: No libel arrests Friday-Sunday

By Jayrose T. Gozol

WHEN the new chief of the Metro Manila police formally assumed his post on Friday, his very first directive concerned the media.

During the ceremonial turnover ceremonies at the National Capital Region Police Office headquarters in Taguig City, Chief Supt. Leonardo Espina told his men not to arrest anyone on libel charges on the weekend.

"To my men here or in your regional districts, I'd like to direct and remind all my people in the NCRPO not to serve summons of arrest for libel against any media personality from Friday afternoon until Sunday," Espina said in a speech.

"Give our friends from the media a chance to post bail. This is just libel. Any work, working personnel," he said.

Espina later explained in an interview that since his only days in the town, he had heard of police officers serving such warrants on weekends, leaving the accused no choice but to wait in detention till the courts reopen the next week.

He described such moves on the part of the arresting officers as "abusive."

In his speech, Espina only made a brief reference to the incident which landed him in the news earlier last week, when his son encountered two "reservists" officers from the Quezon City Police District. (See related story on Page A2A.)

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Young cop blames senior buddy: Doing a 'Code 2' on Espina son

ESPINA

By Jodi M. Aurelio

POLICE Officer 2 Jerry del Rosario maintains he is not exposing his duty that Tuesday, when his child turned four months old.

Little did he know that he and his patrol buddy whom he just met that day would later find themselves deep in trouble on allegations that they extorted money—"Code 2" in cop slang—from a motorist who turned out to be a police general's son.

"I felt like my heart was being crushed when I heard a radio report mentioning my name in the broadcast. I was in the patrol car the whole time," said the 29-year-old Del Rosario, a member of the Quezon City Police District.

The new father maintained that he never knew his partner—SPO1 Jose de la Pena, 37, prior to Sept. 4 when they were assigned to the 24-hour car patrol from 9 p.m. to 11 p.m.

Speaking to reporters on Saturday, Del Rosario—now stripped of his badge and gun—insisted that it was the older policeman who did the shakedown of Christopher Espina, the newly installed director of the National Capital Region Police Office.

The two officers have been relieved and are facing charges after the elder Espina was injured in the extortion attempt.

According to the NCRPO chief, it was De la Pena who approached his son while parked in Quezon City and annoyed him of engaging in "phone sex." De la Pena then took over the wheel and forced the victim to find an ATM booth, while Del Rosario called down to the police car.

The veteran cop holed when the younger Espina managed to call his father and handed the phone to the De la Pena just as he was about to withdraw the money demanded by the policeman.

In the interview, Del Rosario said he voiced his objection to what De la Pena did after the Espina son pleaded with the latter to let the younger Espina go.

'What you did was wrong'

"I told him, 'Sir, what you did was wrong. You shouldn't have done that. It's not in our police operational procedures,'" he recalled telling his partner.

Until Tuesday's episode, Del Rosario's record has remained unblemished in his five years in the force. De la Pena, on the other hand, has flaunted several administrative irregularities, he reportedly admitted since 2006.

Recounting the events that night, Del Rosario said he and De la Pena, a field supervisor and the night's designated driver, were tasked to patrol areas falling under their police substation.

At around 9 p.m., they were cruising along Hemady Street when they saw a parked Kia Rio. De la Pena then stopped the patrol car and told his partner to just stay in the vehicle.

"He even gave me the keys and said, 'Here, you drive.' So I just watched him walk to the other car," Del Rosario said.

Moments later, the senior policeman walked back to the patrol car and told the partner to follow the red Kia. Del Rosario said he assumed that the motorist would be brought to the QCPD headquarters in Camp Karingal.

But his companion, the red Kia, with De la Pena, who is native to Amadeo, Cavite, stopped at an ATM terminal. It was at this point that he sees Espina's son get out, his cell phone to his ear. De la Pena then called him back to the car to instruct him.

"He motioned me to stay of cruising. De la Pena then got out our since the latter had no handheld radio with him. He also didn't leave De la Pena's cell phone inside."

They then drove to another ATM terminal, but this time Espina's son did not step out of the car. Later, the Kia sedan moved again until they reached Camp Crame.

De la Pena—who by then had confiscated the driver's license of the younger Espina—got out of the Kia and headed back to the patrol car, taking over the wheel as he spoke.

"His face was ashen. He told me in a tense, low voice: 'That was General Espina's son. I called to the general on the phone, but I wasn't able to pull off a Code 2,'" Del Rosario recalled.

The rookie cop, his body up from the installation, but it didn't stop his angry outburst. "I was really mad. I kind of raised my voice at him. I knew it was wrong," Del Rosario. That very moment, he said, he became worried that Jun Jun years to the service had just gone down the gutter.

Tension between buddies

De la Pena, apparently to defuse the tension between them, invited him to look for a joint to eat.

Everything in the past was called back to Camp Karingal as soon before their shift ended, and were told to surrender the younger Espina's license to their superior, Chief Insp. Jerome de la Cruz of the Mobile Patrol Unit.

Curiously, De la Cruz sought an explanation only from De la Pena. The patrolmen were later ordered to give the license to Supt. Ferdinand Villanueva of the District Investigation and Detective Management Division.

As rumors about their misdeed began tarnishing around the station, Del Rosario went home with a heavy heart and stayed indoors the entire Wednesday to spend his day off with his baby.

On Thursday he received a call from his unit ordering him to surrender his gun and badge before 9 p.m. Upon arrival, he learned that he and De la Pena had been relieved of their posts.

Later that night, an unknown number was trying to call him on his cell phone. It turned out to be his running partner.

He asked me: 'What's the latest news there?' I told him that we were supposed to show up here. He only said that he will try and that he'll just text me how time is nine," Del Rosario said.

That was his last conversation with De la Pena, who has not reported for work since Tuesday night.

Espina, in explain his side and maintains his innocence, Del Rosario, accompanied by a superior, acted but failed to see Espina personally during the command inspection days at the NCRPO headquarters in Tagaig City on Friday.

New NCRPO chief . . .

From page A12

"Let's just forget about what happened to my son," he said in Filipino. "What's important is that we have corrected [the] mistakes among our family."

Tuesday's incident "definitely has a bearing" on the head of the Philippine National Police Highway Patrol Group, took over from Deputy Director General Alan Purisima, his "mistah" (classmate) in the Philippine Military Academy "Tinimbang" Class of 1981.

Purisima has been promoted to head PNP directorial staff.

Espina admitted that he will be facing many challenges in NCRPO chief, such as the reported rise in crime during the so-called "ber" months leading to Christmas, as well as the security concerns over next year's elections.

"We will concentrate on operations and prevention. In the EPG, we looked for and caught the suspects . . . It just takes dedication. Put up networks and maximize teams," he told reporters.

"I need everyone to cooperate with me. I want all NCRPO people to walk in uniform with dignity and pride," he said.

Chief Supt. Dionardo Carlos and Director General Nicanor Bartolome lauded Espina's "good performance" and "work ethic" in the EPG, noting that his stint saw "a reduction in criminality cases and an increase in recovery efficiency."

Bartolome, who was relieved of his post as chief of the Philippine National Police, said Espina's son, Bartolome added, "If we want to earn the citizens' trust and cooperation, we need to start to rhyme our ranks."

"If this happened to the son of one of our comrades, this surely happens to others. This should not be shrugged off. We need to hear on this," he added.

Bartolome then ordered Espina to find a "win-building atmosphere" and speed up delibera- tion on extortion cases filed against PNP members.

"Pending cases should be resolved within 30 days. Pro- ceedings that have not started yet should be resolved within 90 days," he stressed.

From . . .

From page A11

The auditions, like the one that gave Jessa a friend, are held in coordination with Philippine Christian Foundation in Tondo, and with Gemanco Elementary School and SouthSide Elementary School in Pasay.

The hundreds that join a school where Bulos is currently a fashion guru. She attends classes from 7:30 a.m. to 9:30 p.m., and then completes her homework before going to ballet rehearsals at 5:30.

Elizalde contended that not all of her students are from economically disadvan- taged circumstances. "Most of them are still living on. At least they are given a chance."

"That I want them to continue to the point that they become professional dancers. How only will you travel, learn more and make friends, but the experience will also qualify you for other jobs. I actually hope that one of my school... we will eventually put up a ballet school of her own," she said.

They could also become physiotherapists or physical therapists, she added. Some of her students had even branched out to backstage work, such as production, costume, lighting and set design.

For now, Bulos is simply content to give her best onstage, partly because "I feel guilty that some of my classmates pay while I get free ballet classes and lessons."

"I make sure that my school- ing and ballet training are balanced," she said. "I really want to finish my studies."

Ultimately, the little girl gifted with lightness and grace dreams of taking her family away from the slums. "I want to lift them up through my dis- cipline. I love them, a dream because it is still plain. I want them to be healthy."

And this she hopes to fulfill, one pointe step at a time.

GRAY IS GOLDEN

Today in Dr. Jose Rizal Park, Although some elders—like these three in his under the care of People in de San Jose in Manila—are missing the warm embrace of their family members.

QC police trio tagged in SUV theft: 'We just parked it nearby'

By Jodi M. Aurelio

THREE Quezon City policemen are to be sued for allegedly stealing a sport utility vehicle, which was recovered by its owner after nine days.

Facing charges of car theft and falsification in the city prosecutor's office are PO2 Fernando dela Cruz and Roberto Tejero and PO2 Marvelo Reyes, all assigned to the La Loma substation.

The Quezon City Police District Motor Vehicle complained on Friday after the owner of the Toyota RAV-4 (NPF-532) came to the police station in search of the vehicle.

Bessie Ang, 54, only got back her SUV on Aug. 30, or nine days after it was "misplaced" by the accused before Chief Insp. Rodolfo Marcelo of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Unit said the vehicle was parked by Ang's son on Sidesaan Street, Barangay San Isidro Labrador, on Aug. 30.

The next day, a criminal thought that the vehicle had been abandoned and reported it to the La Loma police station, which then sent the three policemen to the area.

Bessie Ang, 54, only got back her SUV on Aug. 30, or nine days after it was "misplaced."

Instead of taking the SUV to the impounding area, the trio allegedly towed the vehicle to the police station and kept it there for safekeeping, as they suspected it to be La Loma police station, which then sent the three policemen to the area.

The incident ran the trio managing to unlock the RAV-4, and presumed that they were taking it for safekeeping as they drove off, according to Marcelo's letter.

But when Ang went to the station, she did not find the vehicle or any record of its recovery. She noticed, however, that a logbook entry about a certain vehicle's license plate number was added. Some CRF-533? or CVH-558 ?

Ang later found out that the fabricated plate number was that of a delivery truck.

The SUV was returned to her nine days after it was allegedly taken by the policemen. The RAV-4 was returned to "someone found parked and its scratches and dents have been covered up."

In their defense, the three policemen said they did recover the RAV-4 but claimed that they just parked it on Matapa Street, which is adjacent to their station. But they admitted their failure to file a report about it.

Late Mayor Tito Oreta hailed as 'Builder of 21st Century Malabon'

By Nathaniel B. Mallon

ORETA

FAREWARDING, progressive, innovative. "Builder of 21st Century Metropolis."

This was how Metro Manila mayors and other officials described their late colleague, Malabon Mayor Canuto "Tito" Oreta, in a ceremony held Friday in city hall.

Three mayors—Manila's Alfredo Lim, Caloocan's Enrico Echiverri and Valenzuela's Sherwin Gatchalian—paid tribute to Oreta by recalling his brand of public service and other personal anecdotes.

Lim said he hopes to fulfill, one pointe step at a time.

Echiverri said he took his fellow's advice and befriended Oreta, whom he considered a seasoned leader not just on account his age.

"I really admire him for many things, including the fact that he ran for office unopposed several times," Echiverri said, referring to Oreta's unchallenged campaigns for his reelection in 2004, 2007, and 2010. After he managed to revive the difficult political horizon in the city.

Gatchalian recalled that he first met Oreta in 2004 when they both began their first terms as mayor in their respective cities.

"Despite his status as a mayor, he walks hand a simple life. Where I first met him, he was only wearing a white long-sleeved top and jeans. I found he had an old car, which frequently broke down, and since he was forced to take a cab to work," he recalled.

"It was really his humility and simplicity that struck me. And also his youthful spirit. He was always smiling. I didn't think he was already 66 something when we first met," Gatchalian added.

Metropolitan Manila Development Authority Chair Francis Tolentino presented to the Oreta family a Metro Manila General resolution hailing him as the "Builder of 21st Century Malabon."

Tolentino said Oreta was the type of government executive who was bent on getting things done.

"After I assumed office as MMDA chair, I first went to Mayor Tito. I think it was his birthday then. He told me, 'Francis, let's do the Camanava Flood Control Project together, shall we?' Ever since, he never relented. He followed it up until we were into our second term," Tolentino said.

"Until he died on Monday," he said. "The next day the National Economic and Development Authority board approved not only the Camanava Flood Control Project but also the Valenzuela-Obando-Meycauayan Flood Control Project. I wasn't able to report it to him then, as clean it gone," he added.

Oreta, who died at the age of 71, was also remembered for implementing various infrastructure projects, including the 13-story city hall, and a residential sports complex.

His remains were cremated on Saturday.

US deported record number of illegal immigrants in 2011

US PRESIDENT Barack Obama salutes as he arrives for a campaign event at Strawberry Banke Field in Portsmouth, New Hampshire, on Sept. 7. —AFP

IMMIGRATION enforcement authorities detained and deported record numbers of illegal immigrants in 2011 and not on watch for similar figures this year, even as the number of foreigners crossing the border illegally dropped to a 40-year low, according to data published on Friday by the Department of Homeland Security.

Immigration agents deported 391,953 foreign-born people during the 2011 fiscal year, the agency's Office of Immigration Statistics reported. They included more than 188,000 people who had been convicted of crimes in the United States—an "all-time high" for such deportations, the report found.

Citizens of four Latin American countries—Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador—made up 93 percent of all people deported last year. With just one month to go in the 2012 fiscal year, deportations were down slightly, with just over 366,000 people expelled through Aug. 25. But they include more than 191,000 convicted criminals, a record that last year according to figures from Immigration and Customs Enforcement, one of several agencies in the department.

The figures provide a backdrop to the administration's political calculations on the thorny issue of immigration as President Barack Obama heads into the last stretch before the November elections. Although Homeland Security officials have said they are focusing their efforts on criminals, the last three of deportations to the new years was left mostly unscathed by immigrants, and caused growing disillusionment with Obama.

Pressure from Latino and immigrant groups helped persuade Obama to take a sweeping executive action in June to suspend deportations temporarily for as many as 1.7 million young illegal immigrants who came to this country as children. The program, which has been very popular among Latinos, began to accept applications on Aug. 15. Homeland Security officials have not yet reported that any applications have been approved and their deportations deferred.

In spite of the steep increases in deportations of criminals, Obama's policies have not won him friends on the other side of the political divide. Republicans in Congress say the deferred deportations are a backdoor amnesty and the services in the administration of crippling enforcement by demanding that agents steer away from arresting illegal immigrants if they are not convicted criminals.

In addition to formal deportations, last year Homeland Security agents expelled about 324,000 foreigners back to their countries without formal court proceedings, according to a report. Most were illegal immigrants who agreed to leave voluntarily after they were detained, rather than be removed by the authorities.

According to the new figures, immigration and Customs Enforcement, which is known as ICE, detained about 429,000 immigrants last year, another record.

Homeland Security authorities have increasingly concentrated their efforts at the border with Mexico, with the majority of detentions and removals coming there. In 2011, the border Patrol captured about 335,000 migrants trying to cross illegally, the lowest number since 1971. AP/NO

A day after convention, it's still the economy

JOHN (3?), Iowa—Only hours after accepting his party's nomination for a second term, President Barack Obama found himself on the defensive over a jobs report that was weak in almost every way.

The disappointing report leaves the president and his advisers with fading hopes that the economy will surge ahead before Election Day—much as it did late last year—and allows them to amplify his case that the country is on the road to recovery.

And so on Friday, Obama found himself making the complicated argument that the flagging economy, while not good enough, is at least consistent enough to show that he has put the country on the right path. He has also found himself in the bleak position of having to prove to voters in the 55 days before they head to the polls that despite the sluggish economy and high unemployment, Americans would be even worse off with Mitt Romney at the helm.

"It's certainly not what I would call the position we wanted to be in at this point in the race," one Obama administration official, who requested anonymity to talk candidly about the campaign, said on Friday. "He's going to have to make the case that we wouldn't even be at 8 percent if it weren't for him."

For the past two years, Obama based his campaign on the argument that Democrats had rescued an economy free fall and helped put millions of people back to work.

But that argument has proved harder to make with middling-or-worse jobs reports month after month. The August report shows that the unemployment rate fell only slightly, and even that drop was largely because hundreds of thousands of workers had given up looking for jobs.

"Today we learned that after losing around 800,000 jobs a month when I took office, businesses added private-sector jobs for the 30th month in a row," Obama told a campaign rally in Portsmouth, NH.

Still, the pace of job growth was "not good enough," Obama was forced to acknowledge.

The bad economic news, with the August jobs report showing unemployment nearly particularly for the less-educated and the long-term unemployed, cheered Republican pollsters and politicians eager to interpret it as yet more evidence of the failure of Obama's economic policies.

On Friday, Romney made a rare devoted argument that Obama is failing in an economic turmoil, referring on Twitter to the Democratic National Convention as a party and the jobs report as the hangover.

"There's almost nothing the president has done in the past three and a half, four years that gives the American people confidence that he knows what he's doing when it comes to jobs and the economy," Romney said on his way to a campaign stop in Sioux City, Iowa.

His surrogates and supporters piled on.

"If 8 [8] labor market were a horse, they'd send it to the glue factory," said Andrew C. Biggs, an economist at the American Enterprise Institute, in a statement. "Lucky for the horse, the factory is closed, too."

Obama's advisers say the administration's early two months will hammer home his argument that Republicans have stood in the way of better jobs numbers. He will argue that Republican opposition to his jobs bill has hampered growth. And he will continue to refine the economic that his opponents are obsessed with tax cuts, an argument he unveiled at the convention in Charlotte, NC, Thursday night.

New York Times News Service

80 dead in China quakes; rescue efforts hampered

BEIJING—Rocked mountain roads were hampering rescue efforts after twin earthquakes struck southwestern China and killed at least 80 people, leaving officials searching for survivors that the death toll would rise further.

More than 100,000 residents were evacuated after Friday's quakes toppled thousands of houses and sent boulders crashing across roads in a remote mountainous area along the borders of Guizhou and Yunnan provinces.

The damage was preventing rescuers from reaching outlying towns, and communications were disrupted after the midday quakes hit in a region of small towns and miners where none of China's poorest people live. Weather forecasts on Saturday said there was a chance of rain over the next three days, which could hamper rescue work.

But there was some good news, with state television reporting that four babies had been born in temporary hospitals set up since the quakes hit.

The first 5.6-magnitude quake struck just before 11:30 a.m. on Friday and was followed by an equally strong quake shortly after noon, joined by dozens of aftershocks. Though of moderate strength, the quakes were shallow, which often causes more damage.

The state-run Xinhua News Agency said on Saturday that 80 people had died in the quakes. It said earlier that hundreds had been hurt, but did not immediately give a new injury toll on Saturday.

Thanhui his son Yiliang Cenxi, where all but one of the deaths occurred, according to the Xinhua state provincial government's official website. Another 730 people in the area were injured, Xinhua said. Yiliang's high population density, flimsy building construction and landslide-prone hillsides were blamed for the relatively high death toll.

China Central Television showed roads littered with rocks and boulders and pillars of dust rising over hillsides from the landslides. One image taken just as one quake struck showed people running out of a supermarket as the ground shook.

Other footage showed villagers of Hua town being set up for the evacuated, as well as hundreds of people crowding into a school athletic field in Yiliang's county seat, a middle city spread along a river in a valley.

Though quakes occur in the area frequently, buildings in rural areas and China's fast-growing smaller cities and towns are often constructed poorly. A 7.9-magnitude quake that hit Sichuan province, just south of Yunnan, in 2008 killed nearly 90,000 people. AP

A RESCUER with a police dog look for victims at a damaged home in Yiliang on Sept. 8 after two quakes struck the area. —

US tags Haqqani network a terrorist group

WASHINGTON—The United States said on Friday it is designating the Pakistan-based Haqqani network a terrorist organization, triggering sanctions against a group American officials blame for high-profile attacks in Afghanistan, and which they say has ties to the Pakistani state.

The decision is blacklist the Haqqani network, announced by US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton during a trip to Russia, could heighten tensions between Washington and Islamabad and have far-reaching implications for any reconciliation process in Afghanistan.

Senior Haqqani commanders warned as much, telling Reuters that it showed the United States was not sincere about peace efforts in Afghanistan. The commanders also said it would bring Islamabad to the conclusion only patsies of any US Sergeant Bowe Bergdahl, who is being held by the militants.

"They are on the one hand claiming to look for a political solution to the Afghan issue while on the other they are declaring us terrorists," said one of the commanders, speaking to Reuters by telephone from an undisclosed location.

"We have our peace talks centered in bringing peace to Afghanistan."

The Haqqanis, a Pashtun tribe with strongholds in southeastern Afghanistan and across the border in Pakistan, are the most experienced fighters in Afghanistan and are blamed for some of the boldest attacks, including one on embassies and parliament in Kabul in April that lasted 18 hours.

The United States accuses Pakistan's intelligence agency of supporting the Haqqani network and using it as a proxy in Afghanistan to gain leverage against the growing influence of its arch-rival India in the country. Pakistan denies the allegations.

A senior Pakistani security official said blacklisting the Haqqani network would be counterproductive and would put unnecessary pressure on Islamabad, a strategic US ally.

"If the United States wants to have a constructive relationship with Pakistan, then this is a bad move," the official said. "This will push Pakistan into a corner."

Still, a senior US official, briefing reporters on the decision, said Pakistan's government was informed ahead of time about the decision "and they did not express concern about this designation."

Clinton, during a congressional deadline this weekend for a decision, said in a statement that she had told the US Congress about her decision to brand the Haqqani network a foreign terrorist organization, subjecting the group and its members to additional sanctions, including an asset freeze.

A US official said the formal designation would be made in the coming days. Reuters

It matters still: In defense of the power of paper

By Phyllis Korkki

PAPER still matters. The five-quire whirring of printers in offices, despite the Internet, life, crunch. Word, social media, scanners, smart phone upgrades, PDF files—science is chic. People may can lose of it that we once did, but reading and writing on paper serves a function that, for many workers, a screen can't replicate.

Paper, says the productivity expert David Allen, is "in your face." To physical presence can be a great to completing tasks, when you compare files can easily be hidden and thus forgotten, he said. Some of his clients are returning to paper planners for this very reason, he added.

Allen, the author of "Getting Things Done," does much of his writing on a computer, but there are still times when writing with a fountain pen on a notepad "allows me to get my head in the right place," he said.

Paper promises also serve an important function, he said. For long tasks, a printout can allow a reader to better understand relationships between sections of writing. And paper handouts are still a presence at meetings mostly because they are useful for taking notes.

Reading a long document on paper rather than on a computer screen helps people "better understand the geography of the argument contained within it," said Richard H.R. Harper, a principal researcher for Microsoft in Cambridge, England, and coauthor with Abigail J. Sellen of "The Myth of the Paperless Office," published in 2001.

Today's workers are often navigating through multiple electronic complex ways and creating new documents as well, Harper said. Using more than one computer screen can be helpful for all this cognitive juggling. But when workers can go big back and forth between

points to a larger document, it can be more efficient to read on paper, he said.

A study released in 1997 showed that people's comprehension is superior when they read texts on paper as opposed to online, Harper said. That finding, of course, doesn't consider the vast improvements in screen technology that have occurred since then, among them e-readers.

He is doing research on e-readers, which are now used mostly for leisure reading. In the future, office workers might make more use of e-readers "alongside other devices for reading and creation, and that will add to the spread of screen collateral on the desk" while not necessarily making reading more efficient, he said.

Steve Lesnau, cofounder and CEO of Leverger, maintains that digital technology is better for socializing and sharing, while paper is best for quiet contemplation. His company is in the business of promoting paper as an aesthetic experience, offering high-end notebooks, journals and pens, even as it expands to sell items like laptop desks and smart-phone cases.

Paper, Lesnau said, "can be a luxury and beautiful thing—the way we store the food and wine, we can create paper and ink and what it does for us."

Paper reminds us that "we're physical beings, despite having to contend with an increasingly virtual world," he said. People complain that writing by hand is slow, but that can be good for thinking and creating, he said. "It slows us down to think and to contemplate and to revise and revise."

Computer stylists, too, can "force you to think more carefully about which words you put down and how to plan what you say," Harper said. But a typist can't replace the physical experience of putting pen to paper, he said. NYTNS

Christian 'blasphemy' girl granted bail

ISLAMABAD—A Pakistani judge on Friday granted bail to a Christian girl who has spent three weeks in jail after she was accused of blasphemy, a decision in a landmark decision for a case that has sparked an international outcry.

Her lawyer said it was the first time anyone has been released on bail for blasphemy in Pakistan, where the inflammatory issue has sent the country into fits of rage following allegations.

The case of Rimsha Masih, who was accused of tearing five pages that contained verses from the Koran, instead parties, set condemnation because she is underage, illiterate and epileptic.

Judge Muhammad Azam Khan announced her bail at one million rupees ($10,400) in a packed, sweltering courtroom after hours of chaotic proceedings. Her Rimsha is likely to spend at least another night behind bars until bail bonds can be paid in full.

Since her arrest in a poor Islamabad suburb on Aug. 16, she has been held in the same jail as the executed killer of politician Salman Taseer, murdered outside a coffee shop by his bodyguard because he called for a reform to blasphemy laws.

An official medical report has classified her as "uneducated" and aged 14, but with a counter age younger than her years. Others have said she is as young as 11 and suffers from Down's Syndrome.

Rimsha's lawyer, Tahir Naveed Chaudhry, said she would be released on Saturday as the outlets and that a date for the next hearing would be fixed in three or four months' time. AFP

The WORLD

Lilit Lamarre B. Gueco

Canada cuts ties with Iran

OTTAWA—Canada closed its Tehran embassy on Friday and ordered Iranian diplomats be expelled, in a damning severance of ties in which it accused the Islamic Republic of being the biggest threat to world peace.

Canada did not cite a specific incident that caused the breakdown, but issued a strongly worded attack on Tehran's support for Syrian President Bashar al-Assad's pariah regime and Iran's "incitement to genocide" against Israel.

In announcing the action, Ottawa cited concerns for the safety of its staff at the diplomatic mission in Tehran and also smarted the failure of Iran's rulers to account for the nation's disputed nuclear program.

"Canada views the government of Iran as the most significant threat to global peace and security in the world today," Foreign Affairs Minister John Baird said in a statement.

"Diplomatic relations between Canada and Iran have been suspended. All Canadian diplomatic staff have left Iran, and Iranian diplomats in Ottawa have been instructed to leave within five days," he added.

Baird also warned Canadians, including dual nationals, that Ottawa will not be able to provide assistance to them if they travel to Iran, and advised any Canadians in Iran to evacuate the country immediately.

Reacting to the move, Iran accused Canada on Saturday of "hostile behavior" under Israeli and British influence and raised the prospect of swift retaliation.

Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesperson Ramin Mehmanparast said the Canadians must vote a "continuation of anti-Iranian policies" by Prime Minister Stephen Harper's Conservative government, which has long had poor relations with Tehran.

"The current governance of Canada under the leadership of Mr. Stephen Harper is known for its erratic policies in the domain of foreign policy," Mehr news agency quoted Mehmanparast as saying.

"The hostile behavior of the current cabal government in Canada in reality follows the policies dictated by the Zionist [Israel] and the British."

The Jewish state is Iran's arch-enemy, while Britain expelled Iranian diplomats late last year after raided Iranian protesters sacked its embassy in Tehran.

Mardillet Bernejeli, who heads Iran's influential parliamentary committee on national security and foreign policy, said there could be an "immediate and decisive" response in Canada-Iran ties, Fars news agency reported.

"It is essential that the foreign ministry respond to this action by Canada on the basis of national interests."

Ottawa's move has gotten support from some of its allies in the West, who allege that the nuclear program aims to give Tehran a nuclear bomb, and have accused the "Iranian regime" of promoting international terrorism.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu congratulated Canada for cutting diplomatic relations, calling the decision "courageous" and "an example to the international community."

The US State Department said it "shared Canada's concerns" regarding Iran's support for the Syrian regime, its human rights record and its nuclear program.

"We want all countries to join us in ensuring that as they set up [a] replacement," added state department deputy spokesperson Patrick Ventrell, adding "there are many different ways they can do that."

An estimated 120,000 people of Iranian origin or descent live in Canada, according to official 2006 census data, and thousands of their relatives in Iran visit them every year.

Despite worsening relations, however, Ottawa's decision to cut all ties was surprising, involving Hassan Rai, a Royal Military College of Canada professor, said, noting that as recently as the 1990s, Iran was Canada's main commercial partner in the Middle East.

Rai's move "is a sign of the new pronounced rapprochement between Canada and Israel," said of an ever-stronger shift away from Iran, he added.

In July, Ottawa warned Iran not to recruit agents in Canada after an Iranian envoy was quoted urging Iranian-Canadians to "occupy high-level key positions" and in "roles being carried out by the dominant Canadian culture."

Tens of thousands have attended by Tehran's treatment of Iranian-born Canadians who traveled to visit their homeland. Iran does not recognize dual nationality and authorities have denied Canadian detainees consular protection. AFP, Reuters

BAIRD

More US students cheat, including in Harvard

LARGE-SCALE cheating has been uncovered over the past year at some of the nation's most competitive schools, like Stuyvesant High School in Manhattan, the Air Force Academy and, most recently, Harvard.

Studies of student behavior and attitudes show that a majority of students violate standards of academic integrity to score degree and that high achievers are just as likely to do it as others. Moreover, there is evidence that the problem has worsened over the past few decades.

Experts say the reasons are relatively simple: Cheating has become easier and more widely tolerated, and both schools and parents have failed to give students strong, repetitive messages about what is allowed and what is prohibited.

"I don't think there's any question that students have become more competitive, under more pressure, and, as a result, tend to excuse more from themselves and other students, and that's abetted by the adults around them," said Donald L. McCabe, a professor at the Rutgers University Business School and a leading researcher on cheating.

"There have always been struggling students who chose to survive," he said. "But more and more, there are students at the top who chose to survive."

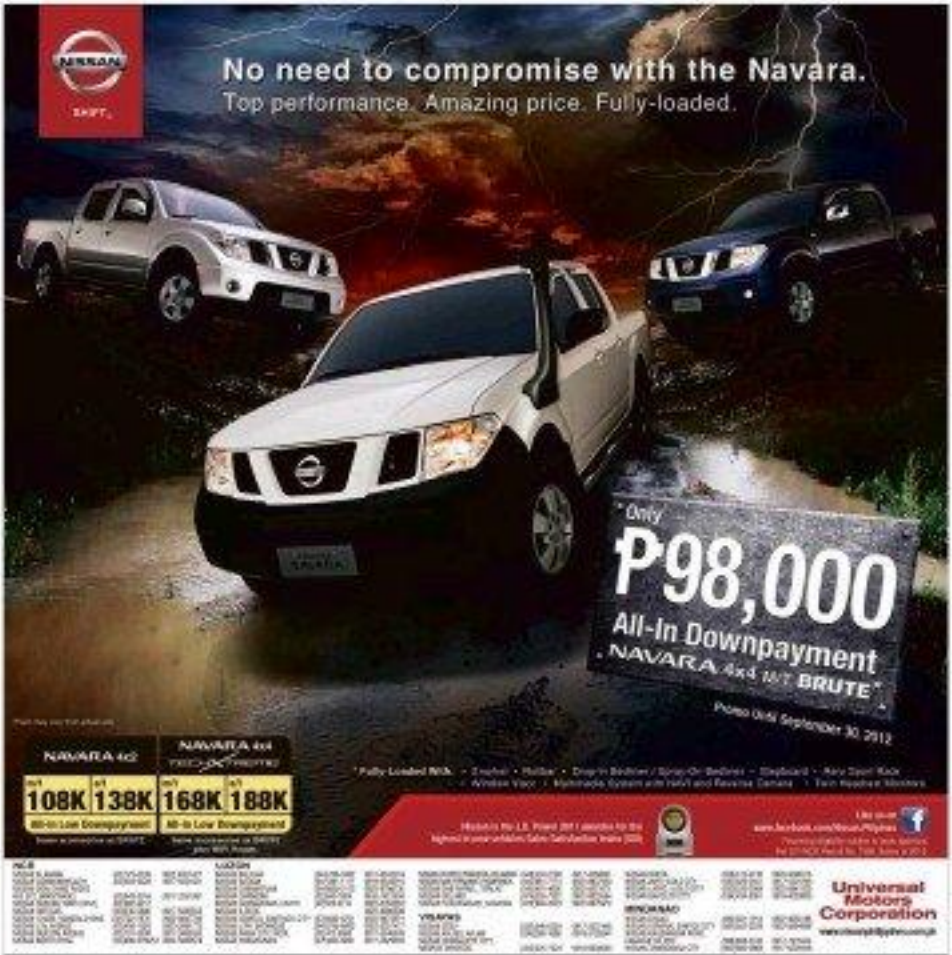
Internet access has made cheating easier, enabling students to connect instantly with answers, friends to consult and works to plagiarize. And research has long shown that a major factor in unethical behavior is simply how easy or hard it is.

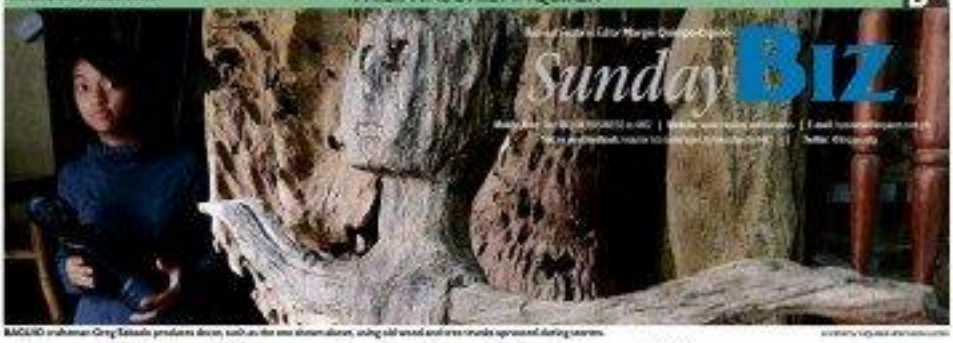
A recent study by Jeffrey R. Roberts and David M. Markies, at Marquette University found that the more online tools college students were allowed to use to complete an assignment, the more likely they were to copy the work of others.

The Internet has changed attitudes, as a world of instant downloading, searching, cutting and pasting has lessened some sense of ownership and authorship. Increased emphasis on having students work in teams may also have played a role.

"Students are surprisingly unclear about what constitutes plagiarism or cheating," said Wasiolek, an associate professor of management.

Howard Gardner, a professor at the Harvard Graduate School of Education, said that over the 30 years he has studied professional and academic integrity, "the ethical muscles have atrophied," in part because of a culture that wants success, knows, or it is assumed. New York Times News Service





BAGUIO craftsman Greg Taliwala produces decor, such as the one shown above, using old wood and tree trunks uprooted during storms.

Giant leap from fast food to health care sector

By Winston A. Marbella
Contributor

ROBERT T. Kuan

ROBERT Kuan, 65, is having the time of his life navigating a second career after a highly successful foray into fast food, Chinese-style. After cashing in his 50 percent equity in Chowking for a reported half a billion pesos, Robert is now chair of St. Luke's Medical Center.

He works for free, but the profits rewards are plentiful, because here doing it for his church.

Tea for two

I was fascinated by this very, very long story of Rich, so I called him up for coffee. He invited me for tea instead.

Robert welcomed me to his high-rise residence overlooking the great enclaves of the rich and their meticulously manicured golf courses and palatial grounds. The view would have been breathtaking had it been a sunny day. But the rainy season had come early—it wasn't even the middle of May—and a gray pallor hung over the city like lead weighted. Still, through the mist, you could see where development was heading—and a map future beckoned Robert Kuan.

To the north you could barely discern the old suburb of Quezon City, where St. Luke's Medical Center stood, of which Robert Kuan, brother of Chowking, was now chair of the board of trustees.

To the east stood a new St. Luke's at the Fort in Taguig, all 150,000 square meters of it, ready to minister to the health needs of an expanding metropolis.

To the south lay the commercial city of Ecoland, and finally St. Luke's has staked out a property for a third medical center: "Sandbanking," Robert

CONTINUED

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Events organizing: Passion will give you an edge

By Amado Mo. Guerrero
Contributor

"I STARTED very young in the events business 20 years ago," says Mayeve Garcia Ramirez, president of Cat Unlimited, Inc. "I have seen the hostile. These were challenging and difficult times."

Those days, this hectic profession is no fool of more, either.

"By early 2008 the events industry was very good," recalls Mayeve. "There were many prospects and participants. However, through the years, there was a lot of competition. The situation became very competitive. In what do you do?"

The corporate executive answers her own question: "You have to be innovative, come up with new ideas, guarantee a par with rounds of each and every

> Competition in the events organizing sector can be fierce, especially during the holidays

MAYEVE Garcia-Ramirez

event. We have networked with GMA 7 and the business media guests."

Most of the proceeds of the Soul Trainer go to six foundations: GMA Kapuso, Bantayog ng mga Bayani, Sanctuary Ministries of Antonqueton, Gilas & Unicef Foundation, Saint John & Elizabeth Hospital, the Soul Center Memorial Clinic.

As a master level, the events executive observes, "Here are some of the cost will have to go to the venue. You have to invest in a venue which is accessible, like the World Trade Center, the SMX Convention Center in Mall of Asia, and Megatrade Hall in Megamall. A good percentage has to go to the promotions and publicity. The bulk of the expenses really have to go there."

Mayeve Garcia-Ramirez likes to portrait to have new participants, exhibits, new things to offer to the public or the target market. Also we commit any things — are ang bago! (What's new?)."

To younger colleagues and those wishing to enter this field she recommends that they must have passion. "This is no big jobs, you network all the time, there is a lot of people, and be a down person. Don't concentrate on one or two industries, as there may be a change in one industry, so keep allow with your other industries."

Further, "Be multi-tasker, does the ways you can promote it. Trade exhibits no banner will be different, like the right audience. With P & B shows, you have everything under the sun."

"Partner with passion and business will follow," Mayeve declares. "Love what you are doing."

Wedding expo set

LITO Events of Imam Shri Hindu is an international award winning photographer, a recipient of 79 awards worldwide and still counting.

Here the years, Bay Area-to-of Goldcraft's Jewelry has crafted award winning jewelry pieces to various designing competitions.

Inspired like Imelda and Goldcraft's Jewelry are only two of the more than 400 wedding suppliers in what is rightfully regarded as Asia's biggest wedding fair and the Philippines' most prestigious, the Wedding Expo Philippines.

Now celebrating 21 editions of being the most comprehensive wedding wonderland in the country, Bernard & Marie Wedding Expo Philippines is anticipated thousands of soon-to-wede from all over the country and from all over the world to plan their wedding and get world-class inspirational inspirations from the one-stop grand event in a 8,000 square meter space, on Sept. 8 to 9 at the SMX Convention Center, SM Mall of Asia Complex.

Among its firsts awards and their guests may get free admission by pre-registering online through www.theweddingexpo.com. The Wedding Bible Festival Philippines to get free passes from the showroom of Thomas & Mariah in Makati Shangri-La.

Wedding Expo Philippines is the wedding fair that the entire Philippine wedding industry grows up for as it is the launch venue of dozens for wedding-related products, services, and companies. Through the years, it has helped thousands of brides and grooms prepare for their big day by offering only the latest, finest, & best wedding ideas in terms of celebrants are pre-screened so that soon-to-wede are assured of wedding professionals that have organized businesses rather than unscrupulous fly-by-night suppliers just out to make a quick buck.

Giant leap from fast food to health care sector

From page B1

team calls it.

Ron Bue, St. Luke's in Taguig.

As planned, the building would have cost P6.5 billion to construct. It will eventually house 92.7 billion worth of state-of-the-art medical equipment powered by technology that will boggle the minds of most everyone except the medical technologists and cyber physicians that will operate them.

Robert's vision

Robert began to verbalize his vision for St. Luke's:

"You know a vision can be achieved in 10, 20, or 30 years. But to reach it, you have to do a lot of preparatory things. To accurately predict where the health care market will be, you have to look at the trend of development—where the movement of commercial, industrial, and residential development is headed."

The way Robert looked out into the future you'd think things were just beginning for him. After earning his Master of Business Management degree at the Asian Institute of Management in 1975, the bachelor's degree in business administration came from the University of the Philippines. Robert put up Ling Nam with his siblings in 1976.

After eight and a half years running it I left Ling Nam, on October 16, 1984. I talked to Tony (Tan Caktiong) of Jollibee, who by this time was on his sixth year after founding Jollibee, and I wanted him to partner with me in my concept of a Chinese fast food restaurant.

"We opened exactly one month later, on November 16th. On March 18, 1985, we opened the first Chowking store."

And Ong came the moment that would truly change his life:

"After five years, in 1989, we had ten stores. (The date punctuated his story like the day he met Robert, or the day he got married. Similarly defining moments.) My little success came to the notice of the members of the St. Luke's board. One of them was the president of Cosmos, William Bolton, who was a very active member of the Episcopal Church, which owned St. Luke's.

"William had owned in the St. Luke's board since 1975, but in 1989 he decided to migrate to the US to be with his children. He knew each other well since we were both active in the Church. He recommended me to Bill Quirino, the lawyer, chair of the St. Luke's board of trustees, who welcomed me to help them run the nonstock, nonprofit hospital.

Call to serve

"From 1989-1996 (he remembers the dates without hesitation), I was just an unassuming member of the board, supporting the vision of Bill Quirino to transform St. Luke's from a church run charity hospital to a world-class medical center.

"But this would require a complete change of structure, a lot of new people, and a transformation of attitudes to care for the underprivileged people in a nonstock, nonprofit organization.

"The board had set the example for servant leadership starting with Bill Quirino, who had dedicated his life to transforming a hospital dependent on annual subsidies and a budget set aside by the Church, to a self-supporting, revenue-generating institution that could provide an income stream plus be building ground of excellence with in De hospital and making it a world-class medical center.

"Involvement in a hospital is a calling. This calling became more evident with the passing of Bill Quirino in 1994. The board invited me to fill his shoes. I said that I did not make a good figurehead and that there were many others better qualified than me.

"But if the board wanted me to provide a visionary leadership towards lifting St. Luke's to a higher level, it would have to be a vision shared by all members of the board. The board agreed, and I accepted the challenge of becoming their chairman."

Tough job

"In 1996, it seemed like a very difficult vision to achieve. We needed a lot of capital. At that time it cost only between five to seven million pesos to put up a Chowking store. Now it costs P20 million to P25 million pesos to modernize St. Luke's world-class standards.

"Now as we look back, we are happy to provide for the needs of the Church that started St. Luke's some 106 years ago. We have an outreach ministry that identifies the needs of the Church. Some of the old churches the American missionaries built are now in need of repair, and we are happy to provide funds for them.

"We have a mission in Tagaita that also operates a hospital to serve the community there. It is now called the Church of the Epiphany. So many of our priests come from there.

"When the Episcopal missionaries came, they made it a point to minister to the minorities because they did not want to compete head on with the Catholic Church. That is why we have two churches in Chinatown—St. Peter's for the Cantonese and St. Stephen's for the Hokkaneses."

The Episcopal prince knew market segmentation 100 years ago, I mused.

One lucky guy

"You know, Jimmy, by your total net, Robert, you are very lucky. Most people your age (he was 59) will continue to make money. But how you are giving back to society?"

"I am very thankful God called me to serve. I get a lot of fulfillment in what I am doing now, as well the people I am allowed to share with an organization like this—the concept of servant leadership. I never asked what's in it for me. As Christians we do not receive compensation."

Stewards do come in many forms, I said to myself. But I did not pursue the point. I had a fascinating story to tell for you.

(The author is president of a management consulting think tank; comments are welcome e-mail: mdc2000@gmail.com.)

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Employee wellness can translate to more profit

By Catherine Tardi
Correspondent

WORKERS enjoy some downtime. Is employees' well-being key the company's cohesion.

IN THE Philippines, the economic is all too frequent. Employees calling in sick due to various illnesses like cold, fever, headache, body ache and pain. Sick or emergency leaves are filed in to care for family members who fall ill. Chronic illnesses have become more prevalent with an alarming increase in the number of employees seeking medical assistance for cancer, diabetes, kidney and liver ailments, high blood pressure, strokes and the like. Many companies have lost valuable young and successful executives to permanent disability or early death.

A report by World Economic Forum and the Harvard School of Public Health said that a global epidemic of the so-called lifestyle diseases or NCDs (noncommunicable diseases)...including cardiovascular disease, cancer, diabetes, chronic respiratory diseases...have become a clear threat to global development and economic growth.

These lifestyle diseases are responsible for 63 percent of all deaths worldwide, with 80 percent of those deaths coming from low and middle income countries. Half of those who die are in the prime of their years. The report states that NCDs will cost more than $30 trillion over the next 20 years, and push more people below the poverty line.

Employee illness affects a company's productivity directly. Studies show that each day of absence due to illness is equivalent to almost 6 times loss of worker productivity per year. Workers who are unable to concentrate at work due to their own illnesses or illnesses of family members, "called presenteeism," translates into almost 9 times of reduced worker productivity. Presenteeism losses from presenteeism exceed the costs of absenteeism and medical disability combined.

Studies also show that healthy workers are 3.1 times more productive than their unhealthy colleagues: Healthy workers produced 340 "effective working hours" per month, while the less healthy workers produced only 40 "effective working hours" or 3.7 times less. The cost of lost productivity due to health together with direct medical spending were shown to be four times greater than direct medical spending alone.

It is a well known fact that the performance of a company's human resources is the primary determinant for its success or failure. Healthy employees who are productive translate to company profitability and vice versa.

With productivity and profitability directly linked to employee health, and with the rising incidence of chronic illnesses in the country, there is an urgent need for companies to re-examine health promotion, disease prevention and employee wellness as a strong value proposition. Companies need to review their employee health strategy. How important is employee health to the organization? Is it a cost driver or a performance driver?

Employee wellness can be seen as a key value, not only in terms of employee benefits, but as a vital strategy for business sustainability. With this in mind, a company can take the opportunity to redefine the role of departments in charge of employee health and medical concerns—for if the company does so, HR department is to a simple dispenser of medicines and administrator of medical benefits or is it a strategic partner in proactively promoting health in the organization? Does it have a well thought out strategic analysis to introduce, maintain and measure a culture of wellness and health in the organization?

Many companies have started health promotion activities designed to raise awareness of the importance of a healthy lifestyle. Company sponsored fun runs, nutrition classes and health checkups have become popular in the metropolis. Wellness, however, goes beyond nutrition and exercise and involves activities that help the individuals achieve balance in the body, mind and spirit.

Beyond single, sporadic activities targeting nutrition and exercise, a company would be well advised to adopt a vision and strategy of health promotion and wellness aimed at introducing a vibrant culture of health in the organization. A well designed wellness program is visibly supported by top management, utilizes several methodologies and activities which actively engage and inspire employees, encourages employees to take responsibility for their lifestyle decisions, and ultimately reflects the real intent of improved productivity and greater profitability for the company.

Such programs provide an attractive return on investment for the business and make the company an attractive employer of choice. Companies that see employee well-being programs as a key driver to keep their employees healthy will have a distinct advantage. From companies that view employee sickness as a necessary but unwelcome expense.

(The author is president of Human Village, and Spa and Wellness Professionals. Human Village at Tagaytay offers spa, wellness and natural healing services in addition to corporate teambuilding and wellness activities. Cathy has been involved in human resources training and organization development for the past 20 years and is a certified wellness specialist from the National Wellness Institute of Wisconsin, USA.)

After 10 years, Camp John Hay opens new hotel

By Desiree Caluza
Inquirer Northern Luzon

BAGUIO CITY—It took 10 years to build the The Forest Lodge, Camp John Hay's newest 208-room hotel, engineer what its owners have said all along: the Camp John Hay Development Corp. (CJHDevci) will fulfill its promise to create a tourism estate in this former American rest and recreation baseland.

Robert John Iroleppeta, CJHDevcro vice president and chair, formally launched The Forest Lodge on Sept. 1, Baguio City's foundation day, resting down its commercial capability with governance.

"We started building [The forest Lodge] 10 years ago, and we were having problems," Iroleppeta says in his speech. "But in spite of that, we are committed to open. With tourism, we want to bring people to Baguio."

CAMP John Hay Development Corp. wants to create another tourism estate in Baguio City.

IT TOOK a decade to complete the hotel.

He says CJHDevcro's vision is to build 1,000 hotel rooms, which it intends to fulfill with The Forest Lodge, as well as with a proposed 400-room facility at the nearby Mile 66 Center.

"We are committed to a thousand hotel rooms and celebrate the cultures and environment to John Hay," he says.

Formerly called The Suites, The Forest Lodge features a log cabin design that "inspires togetherness, bonding and the traditional Baguio hospitality" according to a company statement.

It has an airy and spacious lobby which showcases modern paintings and tribal dresses, as well as a mesmerizing view of the forest and mountain range.

The Forest Lodge, which brands itself as "the biggest deal, the best for," offers "extremely friendly" rates. P2,950 for its superior room, P3,300 for its deluxe room, and P5,400 for a one-bedroom suite on a triple-sharing arrangement.

One of the features of the hotel is The Twins, an indoor cafe designed and supervised by culinary artist Billy Ocing.

The new John Hay facility responds to a tourism revival plan enacted by Baguio's service industry in 2011 which recommends improvements in the city's access roads and parks and an increase in room accommodation.

Heinz Mauflerdier, managing director of CJHDevci's The Winds, and board director of the Hotel and Restaurant Association of Baguio (HRAB), says the summer capital is still a preferred destination for conferences and seminars.

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A day in the stressful life of a fund manager

By Doris C. Dumlao

FUND manager Marvin Suaco believes in long-term investing and has raised his own kids to be the perfect power boys of learning about stock market investing early on. After all, the chief investment officer of the country's largest bank Banco de Oro Unibank which has P730 billion worth of assets under management—has made it his lifetime advocacy to help empower Filipinos through prudence in handling hard-earned money.

"It's not how much you earn,but how much you save and invest," is what Suaco often tells clients, adding it's possible for people to regularly set aside 20-30percent of earnings, no matter how small their take home pay is.

Japan bore him as renowned fund manager serving institutions and individuals with excess money to invest, Suaco practices what he preaches in his own household. He and wife Mary Rose—Marvelee a financial literacy advocate and author of two selling book "Raising Rosy Boys"—have raised their three boys Marvin, Enrique and Ramon to be high-IQ (financial quotient) kids who regularly save and invest. The Suaco kids now choose their stocks, monitor and update their portfolio and discuss their investment strategy with their parents.

"It first started as gift of stocks 15 to 20 years ago. Those stocks have grown and earned cash dividends. "Those cash gifts from ninongs, ninangs and uncles and the earnings they got out of their allowance, they put in investments," Suaco tells the 3s quizzes. Whenever the kids get cash dividends, they reinvest them again.

The Suaco children have enrolled in BDO's easy investment

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In choosing staff, school head looks for X factor

WITH THE appointment of Janet O'Connor Brock as head teacher, King's School, the latest international school to open in this country, is sure to attain its goal—to become the leading provider of British education in Metro Manila.

Other than being equipped with the appropriate educational background and experience in international educational settings, Janet possesses the disposition essential to being an administrative and head teacher.

That she comes from a family of educators adds to her impressive assets.

"My mother, Madge O'Connor, was a teacher in Liverpool. After she was widowed at age 44 with 9 children to feed for, she struggled to become a primary school teacher because the working hours and conditions were perfect for a mother single-handedly raising her children. She would drop us off to school, go to her teaching duties, and then pick us up."

Of my 4 sisters, 3 became teachers. Of my 4 brothers, 2 married teachers. And now 2 members of my nephews and nieces are teachers," Janet relates.

Today, as she looks back with fondness on those years, she affirms her choice: "to become a teacher because it is a wonderful job. You come to school and any worry or problem just leave at your door. It empowers because children value it anyway."

Janet realized as far a teacher in Leeds, England. She completed "When I went in Trinity and All Saints' College, I took all the subjects that would qualify me to be a primary school teacher capable of teaching English, Math, Science, Geography and all the other subjects. At the same time, I specialized in Physical Education and Recreation, since I enjoyed PE more as a primary school and secondary years. I also played hockey and netball as my extracurricular activity. "After that, I acquired a Bachelor of Arts in PE & Recreation. Bibliography (D) degree.

Her choice of Physical Education and Recreation has put her in good stead as she went through the ranks, from the position of classroom teacher to head teacher.

She points out, "A large percentage of head teachers, according to a study, were at some point PE teachers since they have very useful skills. PE teachers have a grasp of children outside of the classroom or in the field and have to be able to control them in a very open environment. That's why their behavior management skills are excellent. PE teachers are constantly organizing matches, and they might be organizing 20 different teams for a tournament. They spend a lot of time embracing team building skills, and if you've got a staff of teachers, you need to be good at

> 'We take pride in being a close and caring community where the wellbeing of the students is at the heart of everything that we do'

building a team. Being a PE teacher gives you lots of skills."

Having left college in 1995, Janet has been teaching for the last 22 years. Even atop of the many has been replete with surprises, lessons and experiences that have added to the luster of her personal life and chosen profession.

Janet's first job after graduation was in the home of England in the St. Thomas of Canterbury School in Guildford. She started out as a primary school teacher and went on to become head of primary at the same time, she served as PE Coordinator. On weekends, she handled a football team and I made sure my team always won."

As it was her first job, she had her share of jitters, but these would soon be allayed. "I was lucky to have in a mentor Mrs. Margaret Osborne, who was close to retirement and yet continued to be passionate about teaching. She said that if I doubted my ability to perform an assignment, I should not be surprised to tell people I needed to learn more about it so that I could then apply. Especially such lies, I was just united to ask because she was very encouraging. She would tell me, 'Very good,' when she knew I was making an effort at achieving something.

"It's constructive criticism, she would not tell me outright, "You're wrong," or "You're not very good." Instead, Mrs. Osborne would very cleverly show me how to do it well. And that made me become the teacher that I am today. Her approach taught me how it is to be like children in a class if they were worried about how to do something, because she did it so well for me, I was able to view children well."

In between her teaching load and learning new professional skills, Janet met and married Matthew Brock whom she met in Trinity Mon. It turned out that he had been gone to the same teaching college in Leeds. Matthew was teaching in another school in Surrey.

After their honeymoon in Spain, they transferred in their

JANET O'Connor Brock

institutions where he taught in a secondary school while Janet took the post of Year 5 and 6 Teacher at the Bonnyrigg School, in Chesham, which was near London. "It was a very different school," they recall. "I worked with very deprived children and lots of traveling gypsies as well. I loved teaching here. These children needed routines. When they went home, their parents would often be out. Most of their parents did not understand how important it is having a."

Janet admits, "To begin with, it was very difficult. But eventually I realized all children are the same. They just want you to tell them what they're good at. And they want respect. That's why I always treat children with utmost respect."

She stresses, "It is very important in the British System to have good manners in a school like ours, we stress all the time to be polite, to treat everyone as you would want them to treat you if, as a teacher, you show that in your behavior, your children will treat you back in the same way."

After teaching for a decade in England, the couple moved to Spain. Janet taught there 3,4,5, and 6 at the British School of Moraira where she eventually became head of the primary school. Matthew operated an English language school. After eight years, the couple moved to China. For four years, Janet was Deputy Head Teacher and finally, Head Teacher at the Guildford Campus of British School of Beijing.

As fate as Janet is concerned, her extensive travels and postings, whether in the UK, Spain or Asia have "broadened my mind, made me more respectful of other cultures and given me a greater understanding of my own culture and values. This way I can relate to children and parents of various nationalities, aware of our differences as much as of our commonalities."

As head teacher of King's School Manila, she embraces and exemplifies the experiences and challenges of "providing an environment where excellence, high achievement and reflective practice are central to the ethos and status of the King's School."

Her EE years experience in education with 12 years as a head teacher makes Janet extremely experienced at overseeing staff. "While the priority is their standard of teaching which needs to be outstanding, I also see myself as a coach. I will work together in a team and get on. This in turn will create an extremely happy atmosphere in the school which the children will feel."

In ushering the staff of King's School, Janet looked beyond their educational qualifications, those being basic and a given, she says. "I personally interviewed all my staff. When I made my final list, I looked for experience and passion for education. Next they want respect. That's why I always treat children with utmost respect."

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As head teacher of King's School Manila, she embraces and exemplifies the experiences and challenges of "providing an environment where excellence, high achievement and reflective practice are central to the ethos and status of the King's School."

Her EE years experience in education with 12 years as a head teacher makes Janet extremely experienced at overseeing staff. "While the priority is their standard of teaching which needs to be outstanding, I also see myself as a coach. I will work together in a team and get on. This in turn will create an extremely happy atmosphere in the school which the children will feel."

In ushering the staff of King's School, Janet looked beyond their educational qualifications, those being basic and a given, she says. "I personally interviewed all my staff. When I made my final list, I looked for experience and passion for education. Next they want respect. That's why I always treat children with utmost respect."

She stresses, "It is very important in the British System to have good manners in a school like ours, we stress all the time to be polite, to treat everyone as you would want them to treat you if, as a teacher, you show that in your behavior, your children will treat you back in the same way."

After teaching for a decade in England, the couple moved to Spain. Janet taught there 3,4,5, and 6 at the British School of Moraira where she eventually became head of the primary school. Matthew operated an English language school. After eight years, the couple moved to China. For four years, Janet was Deputy Head Teacher and finally, Head Teacher at the Guildford Campus of British School of Beijing.

KING'S School will all his about how children like to at recess and play.

IN CHOOSING STAFF, SCHOOL HEAD LOOKS FOR X FACTOR

'Lakas ng loob' boosts two SMEs

By Ana S. Roa

FOR TWO hearings in small and medium enterprises, losing during turned out to be key that enabled them to succeed in their businesses.

The Filipino trait of "lakas ng loob" has helped her year's MVP Boosting Awards winners Willy Tan Tee of Individuals Group and Tomasuyo Tan of PENSUN, in growing their businesses.

It is this article and other core values such as "diskarte," "sipag at tiyaga," "abilidad" at "tsaga" that the SME MVP Boosting awards is looking for among 40 Filipino business leaders.

With the theme "Mole Stone Hotgaging Tigerist: Championing Filipino values in Business," this year's MVP award seeks to highlight the role of traditional Filipino values in the success of SMEs.

"What we have learned, however, is that while entrepreneurs serve as key catalysts of progress, their long-term success thrives on traditional Filipino values," Ka Lima Medarilla, vice president and head of PLDT SME Station says during the launch of this year's MVP Boosting Awards.

PLDT SME Station is partnership with Go Negosyo recognizes the hard work of leading entrepreneurs who successfully apply their talent and skills as well as use the advantages of technology to their businesses.

"Almost everyone starts small. Don't be afraid to remain small," says Tan, the president of Amyclub which is composed of Metro Manila and provincial dealerships he head, Hyundai, Nissan and MINI.

For Tan, president and CEO of PENSUN, a distributor of health products, success also includes delivering good quality service.

"The early we start to compromise the world-be winners of the year's award and encourage them to continuously

> 'Small traders are key catalysts of progress'

sharpen their business acumen and show everyone that the Pinoy talent is unique in every way and one of the best in the world," Tan said.

Nominations representing various SME sectors such as agri-business, manufacturing, travel and leisure, retail trade and finance, and service industry are accepted until Oct. 17, 2012.

Qualified for nomination are entrepreneurs and businesses Filipino business leaders who have been in operation for at least five years.

"The kind of entrepreneurs we want are those that will create jobs, wealth and employment for others," Go Negosyo executive director Mon Lopez says.

From selling ice candy to big-time entrepreneur

By Mary Ann S. Pavida

INGENUITY and hard work, coupled with sheer luck, have spelled success for this man who has carved his niche in the electrical industry and helped aspiring entrepreneurs turn their business dreams into reality.

At a lazy, Bernard H. Morillo sold ice candy in his hometown in Oriental Mindoro. In college, he worked at a fast food restaurant selling donuts.

Today, at 41, he is one of the country's top electrical engineers and founder of the Primour Group of Companies, which brings together key players in the electrical industry.

Typical of most business firm owners, Morillo has had his own sorts of hardship, like when he had to borrow money to prevent a check from bouncing. But he learned from his mistakes.

"So one guided me. It was purely self-improvement. That's why it was installed in me to help others," Morillo, known to colleagues and employees simply as Bill, says in an interview with the Inquirer.

Morillo's first successful business undertaking began in 1997. With the help of the late Tan of Lucio's Supermarket, he put up his brainchild, Phil Electric Manufacturing Corp., initially a trading company but now a trained electrical contractor and equipment manufacturer.

After nine years, he ventured into electrical distribution and installation through RMH Equipment Supplies Inc. and Primour Construction Corp.

24 companies

But he wasn't satisfied. Going out of his comfort zone, he went into business process outsourcing, publishing, discount shopping, freight forwarding and food, to name a few.

Today, he employs about 500 people nationwide who man 24 mostly growing companies. They include RMH Electronics Personal Outsourcing, RMH Holdings, RMH Publishing, Electrimall Inc., Premier Freight Forwarder Inc., Guerrero's Super Bar and Restaurant and the newly opened Electrimall Metro Quezon City.

BERNARD MORILLO

> 'I believe in startup firms rather than investing in large companies'

Primour Lightning Solutions

"I believe in starting companies rather than investing in large companies. Also, go to the right ones instead no longer 11 like it better when I make the smaller ones grow," says the electrical engineering graduate from the Technological Institute of the Philippines.

Morillo applies an open participative management style. He consigns his companies' organizational structure to a military setup, where he is the major commander and the company presidents are his platoon leaders.

No relatives, please

"I don't meddle in operations anymore, just more on logistics and finances. Overlooking me long-ago," he says.

He says he has hired relatives but doesn't see like the boss. In his dealings with people, he is so grounded in simple ways, without frills, that even his employees at times are not aware he's the owner.

"They only know their president. Nakalimutan nga nila ako. Ok. I do is just around with them."

One of his problems is not to hire relatives. If at all, he would make them to "only as consultants."

Morillo's down-to-earth attitude is not surprising given his humble beginnings.

Selling ice candies

Even as a child, he already showed qualities that would mark him out later as a serious entrepreneur, volunteering to help his aunt sell ice candies in his hometown and using his earnings to buy a bicycle.

"I didn't ask money from my mother. I've always wanted to give that to receive," Morillo says.

Morillo is married to Myrla Cecilia Guerrero, an architect, and they have four daughters.

Calamansi business

Born on Aug. 28, 1971, Morillo says the family is a brood of eight children of Jose and Purissa Morillo of Calapan, Oriental

FROM SELLING ICE CANDY TO BIG-TIME ENTREPRENEUR

Website offers Filipinos chance to freelance

By Vanessa B. Mallajo

CANNY ORANIEN didn't take the usual route a fresh graduate would: trek instead, she stayed home and went online.

Canny is one of the four million more who call themselves freelancers. She was among the first to join the Internet where she was first acquainted with freelancer.com.ph.

Her first job entailed her to write love advice for a traveler set in New Zealand. She worked at the comfort of her bedroom. She knows it is not the usual 9 to 5 job but it pays like a real job.

Being a freelancer has also given her the opportunity to spend more time with her loved ones and to learn whatever she wants because she wants because she is not tied down to a brisk schedule.

Freelancer.com is an online outsourcing and crowd sourcing marketplace. It works like a middleman between small and medium-sized businesses and entrepreneurs around the world who would like to increase their global labor force by bidding on projects, services and tasks.

Marc Ruwitz is the man behind freelancer.com. Back in 2009, he founded the mainframe of smaller independent sites and bundled them together to create freelancer.com.

The mother company has headquarters in Australia with offices in Sydney, Melbourne and ARIGEN. These are the cities they were familiar with. Then, they also got into Kyoto, Lyon and PLDT. They also participate in the Go Capital public offerings and the different cities they keep it for long term," Ruwitz says.

As the boys grow, they have learned to do much picking on their own. "Decentralize. They ask me, sometimes they do it on their own," he says. "They are financially independent. I mean, I don't tell them what trade early preparations for their future, the ground that says "they can pursue whatever they like."

Ruwitz's eldest son, Marvin 11, has graduated from college with a degree in business management and applied up with Dell Marvin, who is the second preparer for a backup product. Cyrus, 10, is currently studying mass agronomy engineering and Aeron, 15, is studying law high school.

At home, Ruwitz and his fiancée wife Christine are known for being "Mr. Independent" and "Miss 20-80 percent of their monthly earnings. Their next allowance is as follows: 20 percent each on their insurance, real estate and equities and the remaining 60 percent is cash. In the case of Christine, the 100 percent of funds are in equities.

Ruwitz, after all, is a disciple of legendary American investor Warren Buffet, hailed by many as the most successful investor of the 20th century. Apart from embracing Buffet's principles of long-term investing, Ruwitz's investment of work matches investing to his kids at an early age sounds pretty much like how Buffet treated an one Mozzie-play) gave stocks as gifts to his grandchildren at Christmas, thereby growing interest in the stock market among the kids.

Roots

Ruwitz is the youngest of the six children of a couple from Nueva Ecija. His mother was a naval banker and father a businessman/farmer who produced rice. It was the family's farm in Nueva Ecija

that funded the Ruwitz children's education.

He is one of those people with a natural affinity to Math in the Fundamental, by taking mathematics, engineering, one of the hardest programs course at the Ateneo. He began his career in finance as a credit analyst at Far East Bank and it was then that he met the girl that eventually became his wife. After five years of recommending whether or not to invest, he moved to Citytrust — then a unit of Citibank — and started managing money for corporate and individuals.

After several years, Citytrust encouraged him with managing funds for large corporations. It expanded to investment banking and Ruwitz was constantly set up for Citytrust which he headed. Citytrust's asset management business flourished under his wing. Citytrust was acquired by Bank of the Philippine Islands in 1998, which was the same year Ruwitz was tapped by Jaime Zobel de Ayala to head the investment business. When Equitable Bank bought PCIBank, he was put in charge of investment management in the combined entity Equitable PCI Bank and the name thing happened when Equitable Bank Citytrust PCI Bank in 2008.

All in all, Ruwitz has his solid years of experience in fund management.

Challenges

Ruwitz, 50, says his job required a lot of discipline and also knows a lot of stress, which is why it's a must for him to be healthy — physically and spiritually and not just financially. He pumps a lot, meditates a lot and is into athletics. He was a volleyball varsity player in his college days at Ateneo and was also a top scorer in inter-batch bowling tournaments. These days, he's running a lot. He recently participated in the Milo marathon and is training to join the Ayala Triathlon next month. November. He runs with his three college during weekdays and joins

CANNY Oranien (left) serves as much as a Filipino person while at home. Above, work takes on different forms for Cebu people.

Ilocos Caddet went through as a freelancer before she was absorbed by freelancer.com.ph as a dispute manager.

The UP Diliman graduate used to make documents between users and she says, "that is an easy task but others it's stressful. I felt a certain kind of relief."

She was then tasked to launch freelancer.com.ph to the Philippines. Being their local, of course, was no other than she didn't encounter herself.

And to her surprise, the CEO was impressed with her work and decided to promote her to Country Manager.

Though Canny, 27, admits that her current workload is heavy, she understands that her new position entails bigger responsibilities that simply won't fit into her 9-to-5 schedule.

"A downside to being a freelancer is that you file your own taxes, pay for your own healthcare unlike in a corporate setup where there are people who take care of it for you," she adds.

She credits free-lancer.com.ph as an empowering force for users to have an opportunity to work at home and earn by harnessing their skills and even acquiring new ones at the same time. "It is so easy to learn new things through the internet nowadays. It's very simple to go to blogs, websites and some tutorials like SEO offer courses such as continuous enrollment for free," she says.

Just at the end of the day, Canny notes that it all boils down to reputation. "This is why we constantly remind our users to only accept jobs that they can finish. And if they feel that they can't do it on their own then they have the option to bid it to other users so as not to create disputes among them. advice," she adds.

The website has also included a reputation system wherein users will be reviewed based on the timeliness and quality of work. "It is like a resume where each user is subjected to community reviews. His or her history of work, feedback and even payrates are posted so that the other users might get to know him or her better," Canny says.

As a freelancer, Canny earned P80,000 a month when she first started. "We pay our weekly via Paypal, Moneybookers, our freelancer.com Debit Mastercard (available in EURos, dollars and Libra Pounds). We pay our millions of dollars every month to freelancers from around the world," she adds.

Asked about freelancer.com.ph's plans for the future, Canny says they are planning to launch a Filipino website complete with localized features.

"We are trying to tap the micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) here in the country. Majority of the businesses here in the country is composed of MSMEs, but believe that the MSMEs are lacking access that when given enough resources would help boost the local and regional economy. We want them to become empowered entrepreneurs and offer them a scalable work force through freelancer.com.ph," she says.

Freelancer.com.ph has helped over 170,000 Filipinos, providing the exact means where they can transact with other professionals who are registered. Payments amounting to P12.8 million has been given to Filipino freelancers. 17.5 percent of the transactions encapsulated among Filipinos.

The most popular category that employers post projects is for articles. The top category that freelancers work on is copywriting while data entry is considered to be the Filipino's top skill. There is a new conducted by freelancer.com.

"It is our goal to make it easier for an entrepreneur to post his or her manpower needs and also to make it easier for someone who is looking for a job or part time work to find what he or she is looking for. We at freelancer.com.ph provide the venue for that and we enjoin the MSMES to help us achieve our goal," Canny says.

A day in the stressful life of a fund manager

From page B2-1

program (SIP) as well as current their own stock trading accounts in COL Financial, Ruwitz says. SIP is a trade build-up scheme wherein a BOD checking savings/current account is opened and funded under BDO. Investor debit facility and a fixed amount (with a minimum amount of P1,000) per month is deducted from it (once a month) for installment investment is achieved BDO and investment fund (unit FUTT).

"We started them off with easy-to-understand stocks like JobBox, Meralco and ABSCBN. These are the stocks they were familiar with. Then, they also got into stocks Level and PLDT. They also participate in the Go Capital public offerings and the different cities they keep it for long term," Ruwitz says.

As the boys grow, they have learned to do much picking on their own. "Decentralize. They ask me, sometimes they do it on their own," he says. "They are financially independent. I mean, I don't tell them what trade early preparations for their future, the ground that says "they can pursue whatever they like."

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> 'The challenge is there and so are the rewards you get out of hard work and perseverance'

that funded the Ruwitz children's education.

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In choosing staff, school head looks for X factor

From page B2-2

school post in August. Janet explains what parents and students can expect from the King's School.

"We take pride in being a close and caring community where the well-being of the students is at the heart of everything that we do. King's is guided by a desire to allow each student to fulfill his or her potential through an enjoyable yet meaningful curriculum. Our students benefit from small class sizes that allow the staff to really understand the needs and the abilities of the pupils in their class. In addition, each teacher is a subject specialist and works within well resourced departments.

Janet clarifies that being an International school, "King's School admits students the whole school year round as expat families are moved from other countries at a moment's notice."

Janet has initiated efforts toward partnering with the local community. She proudly shares that the school and the Bonifacio Makati Rotary Club are jointly establishing a scholarship program for five deserving children, with one scholar every year for five years beginning this August 2012.

Under Janet's initiative, the school has partnered with the Bangkokthonburi and Chelsea FC academy to offer football (soccer) programs for both children and adults. Also, having come from the British School in Beijing where she was exposed to the advantages of speaking Mandarin, Janet has also established a Mandarin School where people of all ages can learn the language.

"King's School Manila is be proud of the education we offer to both locals and expats and proud as well that King's School decided to take root in this vibrant city so that we can facilitate global learning for our intelligent, passionate students who deserve only the best," Janet concludes.

King's School Manila is located at Bradco Avenue, Acacia Business Park near the SM Mall of Asia. Visit www.kings.org.ph or call 478 5858. Registration open all year round for 2-16 year old students. For information regarding scholarship for a 5 year old (Reception Year) contact Janet Ong at admissions@kings.edu.ph or email info@diamondsalon.com)

From selling ice candy to big-time entrepreneur

From page B2-3

Oriental Mindoro. Before his father left to work in Saudi Arabia, his family's main source of income was trading in salmanlak, which they transported from Mindoro to Pangasinan.

During college and without the knowledge of his parents, he spent his free time working in fast food chains like Cindy's and Double Dragon. He didn't have to but he wanted to gain work experience.

"I've always been like that, always interested in all kinds of work (employable, realized)."

He initially wanted to be a pilot but took up electrical engineering because "it sounded nice to be called an engineer and it seemed like it was easier to do," he says in jest.

Really he worked as an intern at the National Power Corp. (Napocor) and at ABB Zuma Towers Tower, a Zurich energy firm.

First job

His first real job was at Westinghouse International Co. Inc., where his starting salary was P9,000. There he learned the ropes of engineering. Two years later, he resigned.

"Working at Napocor made me feel what it's like to be an engineer. But I also realized I can't get rich there," he says.

With little capital, he took up the challenge of entrepreneurship.

"You have to be objective, after all, it is to earn so that you really say direction, to go into business," he says.

Mandy, starting a business is easy, but being the right people is another matter. He finds lucky and grateful that he has found people generally are competent and trustworthy.

Good enough legacy

Despite the number of people he has helped, Murillo is ready to take up more challenges. "I have given a lot of people jobs and if I find it viable, let's go for it," he tells his employees.

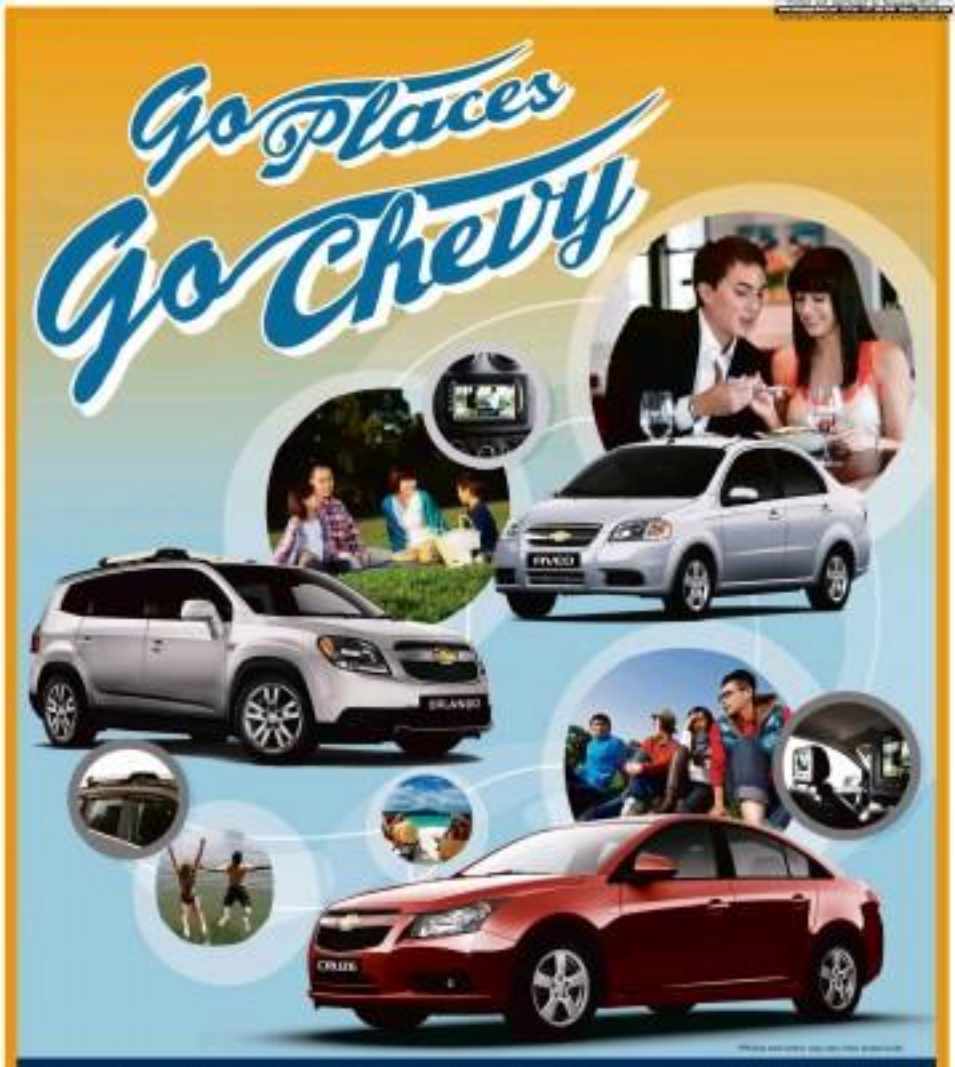
There's an ongoing Manila, it seems. He's eyeing a business plaza expansion in Cavite or Laguna. A P300-million project in Cebu is also underway as well as a global venture with another company. He also hopes some of his companies will make a debut in the Philippine Stock Exchange.

He used to drink, especially to entertain a client. "But now I no longer have any vices. All I want is to spend up a business," he says with a laugh.

And he looks forward to helping more aspiring entrepreneurs... the greatest legacy he feels he can leave behind.

"As long as there is anyone willing to become an entrepreneur, we will help him, if you can help him, if you can improve his business, that's the impact for people you work with, that is already something big. That is a good enough legacy," he says.

Go Places Go Chevy



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Sunday LIFESTYLE
Editor Thelma Sioson San Juan

JRS EXPRESS

INQUIRER EXCLUSIVE

The new Makati high-rise that's making heads turn

By Alex T. Vergara

THE 53-STORY ZUELLIG Building, the first high-rise office building to rise in Makati's Central Business District in 30 years, is almost finished, and it has been making heads turn.

It's a mark beauty at the corner of Ayala Av. Extension and Makati Avenue...a semi-transparent glass monolith...the Singapore-based developer is proud to say.

Its design has been drawing the curiosity and interest not only of passers-by and commuters but also of architects and designers. It looks distinct from the current and past generations of high-rises.

Built at a cost of P7 billion, the glass tower is also the first structure of its kind in the country to

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MAGNOLIA Realty Corp. director Daniel Zuellig (2nd from left) with landscape architect Ellen Ibardo, Bridgebury Realty Corp. marketing director Christa Lucas and architect Willem Cornelisse at Zuellig Building's Sky Garden

DANIEL Zuellig: "We want something that complies with the expectations of the 21st century, where sustainability is a big factor."

THE ZUELLIG Building's Sky Garden, at the 32nd level, has Bridgebury partners, freight services and an incredible view of the skyline.

The new Makati high-rise that's making...

From page C1

be prescribed gold by the US Green Building Council for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED).

There have been other gold-awarded LEED buildings in Metro Manila, but none of them are high-rises. Forerunner examples are the British Embassy and Sun Life of Canada buildings at Bonifacio Global City in Taguig.

Zuellig Building's developers, Bridgebury Realty Corp., led by director Daniel Zuellig, chose to conform with the stringent standards imposed by LEED in the real estate company's bid to create not only a premium-grade office tower, but also a green, sustainable building designed for the future.

"The requirements are pretty straightforward," said Zuellig. "The challenge really is to do it right."

Efficient building

Bridgebury tapped seasoned architect William Cornelisse, with Meer Architects and Partners, Designs and Merrill DIONE as design consultant. Leighton Asia Ltd., an Australian firm, and Manila-based DA Antello Landscape Architects were contracted and landscape developer respectively.

"Our design brief is quite simple," said Zuellig. "We just want a very efficient office building. Apart from space efficiency, we want something that complies with the expectations of the 21st century, where sustainability is a big factor."

In this regard, Cornelisse has been Bridgebury's ultimate guide. "Scaling the way, going to all the directions we get to where we are now," Zuellig added.

Since the gold was awarded, beginning in 2009, LEED authors and consultants have been measuring the building's progress by using an energy point system that includes the use of durable and sustainable materials, proper disposal of waste, and other measure to avoid clean safety standards, among other measures.

"It's a rather tedious procedure," said Zuellig, whose Swiss grandfather migrated to the Philippines as a teenager and established the group as their first over a century ago. "But it's been worth it."

Bridgebury could have done away with LEED's exacting requirements, and simply build a sturdy, towering and well-looking building without an environmental body breathing down its neck.

Right way

Instead, it chose to do it the right way by installing, among other features, a network of underground sprinkler systems that uses gray or rainwater for watering plants and flushing toilets.

"Watering from above using an old-fashioned sprinkler system would be a waste of water," landscape architect Ellen Ibardo, president of DA Antello. "The water only tends to evaporate. And instead of allowing the water to simply seep through in different directions, we use underground systems to reproduce underneath the soil to show some water. The plants' roots have a way of absorbing them."

Rather than make do with a cheaper variety of glass from China, Bridgebury based on DENR-recommendations, went for US-based Viracon's more expensive sheets of double-glazed glass or curtain wall with a series of trademark customized bamboo lines that run parallel from the building's lower level up to its 32nd level.

These fritz serve superfluous or decorative stickers. They're baked during production and, thus, are integral to one of the double-glazed glass panels. But as Zuellig found to point out, "they're sophisticated stickers."

"If you look at some of the glass made in China and Japan, they're also good," said the veteran Cornelisse, whose more recent high-rise projects include the BCBC Plaza and Multicable Towers, both in Makati. "But since this building is to be for glass newest of its kind in the country, the owners wanted to do it right."

Apart from being Palm Island, the fritz gave the building an organic aesthetic, which is quite apt for a vibrant Asian country like the Philippines.

In the top three

Aside from getting gold pre-certification from LEED, we were also able to get the project recognized by Miplan in the office building category," said Zuellig.

Miplan, a French-based body, is equivalent to the Oscars of the property development industry. With this development, the Zuellig Building is already assured of a place in one of Miplan's categories: Best Office and Business Development.

"We're in the top three, with an entry each from Hong Kong and mainland China," said Zuellig. "It was tough between China alone behind 35 entries in various categories."

In November, Miplan will choose which of the three building is the best amongst gets gold, silver and bronze. Zuellig said his team are keeping their fingers crossed.

THE BUILDING opens "initially to Bridgebury, but a few tenants, including Zuellig Pharmaceuticals, have already moved in.

FOR CONVENIENCE: Lights and air-conditioning can be turned on by swiping a card at the entrance. Fans, meanwhile, go on three levels of floors.

"I'd like [Gallaher] Meridian could get awards in Cannes for his films, it would also be good for the country if a building in the Philippines is recognized as environmentally," he said.

But before committing himself to the task, Zuellig and his chosen consultants, including Cornelisse, traveled to the US, where the use of bluer-glass buildings is quite common, to see for themselves how efficient they are.

Several airports and the Glass Reversing Cancer Center in New York are two in the form of either fixes or pellis does.

"For me, it was a conscious move because the owners have applied here in the Philippines," said Zuellig. "My main concern was it might look messy from the outside, or it might distract from working inside the building."

Functional purpose

Rated at 30Btu's /sq.ft./year/°F, Zuellig's fears were unfounded. Occupants of glass buildings with fritz reference them, as the fritz fans allow them to see the world outside and still be insulated from the extreme heat that others. It's certainly better than working in a box with a handful of windows, respondents said.

"The fritted, double-glazed glass with fritz beneath them both have a decorative and functional purpose," said Zuellig. "They deflect the glare and insulate the building from the afternoon heat, resulting in more natural light and fewer use of air-conditioning, especially during daytime."

"It's a misconception that glass buildings, because they're transparent, trap heat," Cornelisse added. "If you use the right kind of glass, your building will, in fact, be cooler."

LEED puts emphasis on lower energy consumption in its point system. At the same time, it has limited Zuellig Building's underground parking to 600 slots. There's adequate space for several bicycle stands and shower areas to encourage employees to actually take their bikes to work.

Zuellig says this purpose built is a statement and an investment in the future for his company as well as for the fragile environment.

"Nowadays, we should all be aware of sustainability issues and the need to reduce our carbon footprints," he said. "Modern technology should be used for better energy efficiency to lessen the impact of our presence on the planet."

At the same time, by adopting the LEED system, Bridgebury hopes to target office tenants with ongoing or previous environ issues.

"There are all companies who are subscribe to sustainability," said Zuellig. "They share our vision."

Outdoor garden

When LEED came onboard, Bridgebury was also required to devote a 1,500 sq.m. of green space lot for an outdoor garden and water feature on the ground level. Since space is premium in Makati's CBD, the area given to itself already entailed a great deal of expense.

A series of gardens using indigenous foliage such as ferns, pandakaki, white champaca, Mariposa, pandanayan and local bamboo varieties was implanted on the second and third floors, where the former host small and mixed areas will be, and on the 32nd level, an ideal semi-outdoor venue for parties dubbed as Sky Garden.

One of LEED's requirements is to provide the use of indigenous species," said Ibardo. "We have a number of shrubs with lush leaves that cover the soil, thus preventing water from evaporating quickly. And in keeping with the building's signature bamboo lots, we also planted pole bamboo species around and third level as well as the Sky Garden."

Enough points

Since Zuellig's latest baby has accumulated enough points to exceed gold, he hopes to receive, in the near future, a platinum rating from LEED once the building goes through another round of auditing when it formally opens in November. Tenants, including Zuellig's pharmaceutical company, have started moving in.

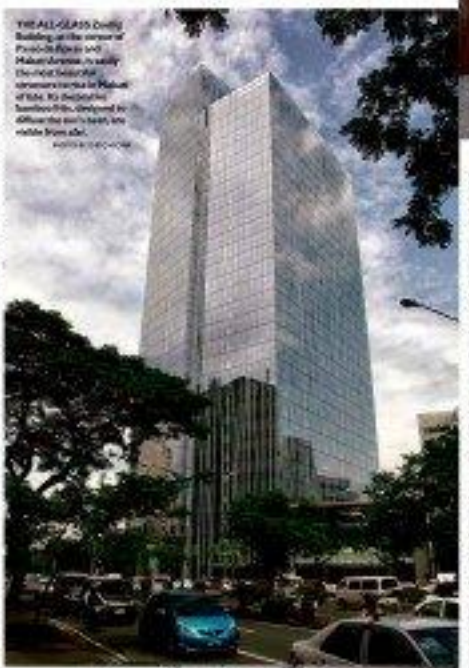
Zuellig Building can house over 1,000 people in its 36,000 sq. m. The terms could range from 50 sq. m (300 sq.ft to 10 sq.m (108 sq.ft. Besides, a pharmaceutical company, Mayo and agents, a travel agency, have already moved in.

"I also have to give credit to the multinational team of architects, engineers, landscape artists and consultants responsible for making this project a reality," said Cornelisse. "The commercial may be an Australian firm, but the majority of talents in the building's construction are all Filipinos."

In all the years he's been designing buildings, this is the first time Cornelisse has worked on a project following LEED's standards. The requirements are a bit stringent. He said, but they're doable and, in the long run, quite practical and make a lot of sense.

"I won't have second thoughts recommending it to colleagues and future clients," he said. "The success of a project of this scale really depends on the client, despite the added expense and time to do it, the client really has to be totally into it."

Visit the author's blog at alanyenpaez.multiply.com



THE ALL-GLASS Zuellig Building, at the corner of Paseo de Roxas and Makati Avenue, is easily the most beautiful structure to rise in Makati of late. Its distinctive bamboo fritz, designed to diffuse the sun's heat, are visible from afar.

BUILDING HIGHLIGHTS: Zuellig Building's modern and minimalist lines, Bridgebury Realty opts for modern and streamlined interiors.

PLANTS are watered by an underground sprinkler system using gray water.

Celebrate your kid's special day in a unique way with Junior MasterChef parties at Max's

Every parent knows that putting together a great kiddie birthday bash can be quite daunting. It takes a significant amount of patience, preparation and a lot of creativity to please the most important critics at the party – the kids! Gone are the days when birthday celebrations simply required buying your classic chocolate-layered cake and a bunch of brightly-coloured balloons. From princesses to super car racers, birthday party themes can be as adventure-filled as you can stretch your imagination. Planning the perfect party only needs a little inspiration and of course, a little outside help.

This is exactly what Max's Restaurant brings to the table when it decided to acquire the license for Junior MasterChef - a stroke of brilliance to help create the most exciting and unforgettable celebration for young Max's enthusiasts. Like its adult counterpart "MasterChef," Junior MasterChef is a successful reality cooking show that has won a steady following all over the world. Junior MasterChef features kids who have the ability and passion for cooking.

Whipping Up the Most Exciting Birthday Bash at Max's

Taking inspiration from the Filipino's inherent value for family relationships, Max's Junior MasterChef party theme seeks to nurture every child's love for cooking and appreciation for food. With Max's Junior MasterChef theme, birthday parties will never be the same again!

"Kids learn best when they are having fun. With Max's Junior MasterChef party theme, we did not only incorporate fun and learning into a party concept, we also provided the key elements for fun and quality family time. Our vision is to create a one-of-a-kind experience that will forever be etched in the memory of kids and their families who will celebrate at Max's," shared Rhona Avelaro, Marketing Manager for Functions and Events, Max's Restaurant.

It's time to don the toque and apron, and start whipping up the most delicious Max's Junior MasterChef creations. The recipes are easy, absolutely yummy, fun to make, and even more enjoyable to share with kids, parents and friends!

Filipinos can count on the first-rate amenities and package inclusions, like tarpaulin banners, venue decors, party invitations, balloons, cake, party hosts, kiddie tables and chairs, games, prizes, loot bags and sweet, sumptuous food! Max's takes all the worries away from parents by incorporating their passionate service into every birthday celebration.

A Timeless Tradition

While Max's Junior MasterChefs enjoy their culinary adventure, Max's kitchen is hustling with activity all day long. Smiling servers come out with tray after tray of Max's world-famous fried chicken that is, simply put, "scrap-to-the-bones."

No celebration will be complete without a hefty serving of classic Filipino dishes that perfectly complement Max's iconic fried chicken. Dishes like Fiesta Platter, Kare-Kare and Crispy Pata continue to delight diners, regardless of their age.

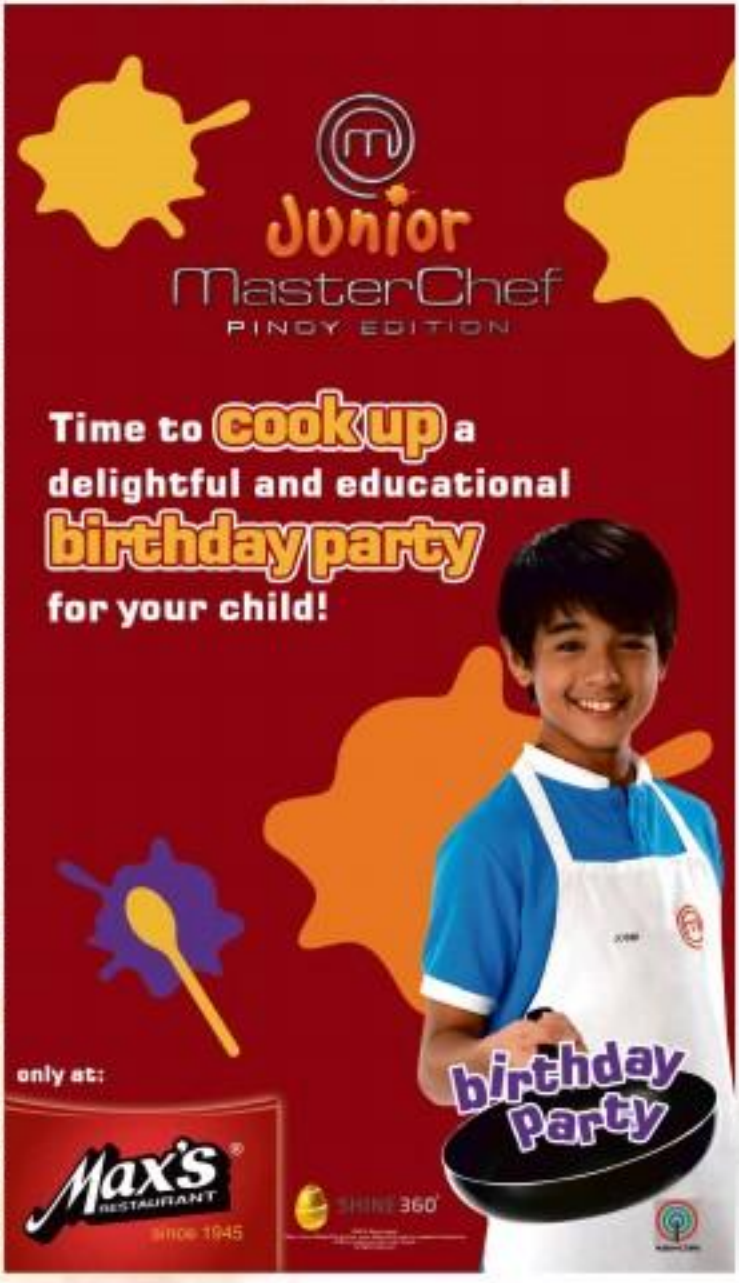
At Max's, food is not the only indulgence. There's laughter that always resonates in every function room and dining hall. "Max's is about a timeless tradition that links Filipino families together. We are stewards of the countless stories that we have shared with our guests. We will continue to build the most unforgettable memories for every Filipino who will celebrate at Max's," Avelaro said.

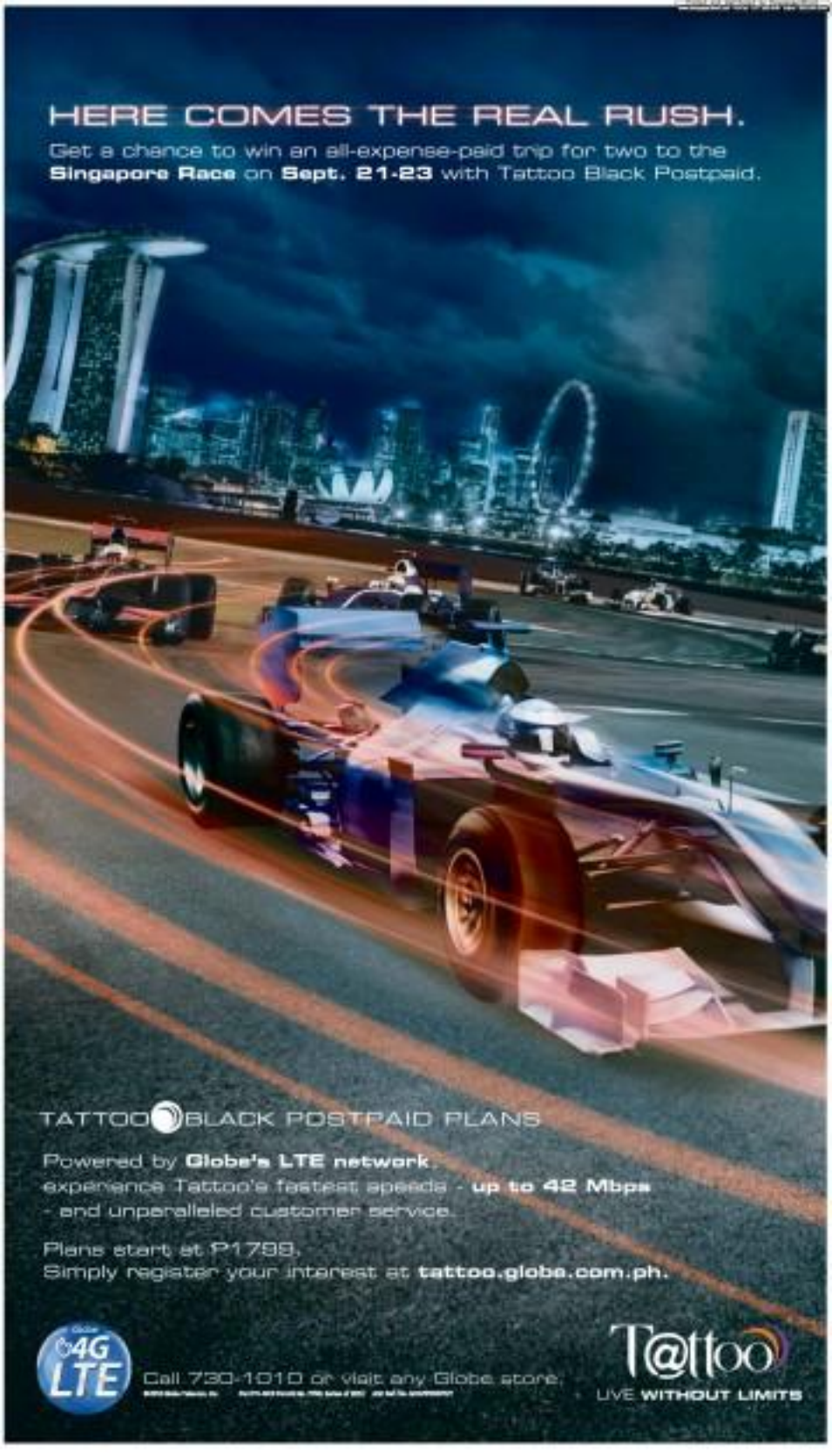
Get inspired with this exciting and exclusive tie-up with Junior MasterChef. Experience the most unforgettable birthday celebration for your little MasterChef!

Learn more about Max's Restaurant's latest happenings by logging on to **www.maxschicken.com** or visit us at **www.facebook.com/maxsrestaurant** and be the first to know about the coolest offerings from the Filipino's most loved brand.

About Max's Restaurant

Max's, one of the country's leading fast-casual dining restaurant, traces its roots to a family's generosity and passion for good food. Max's, "the house that chicken built," continues to innovate and expand worldwide with plans to open branches outside the United States. Today, Max's Restaurant has established itself as a household name, an institution, and a proud Filipino tradition, zealously upholding the values passed on from its early beginnings in 1945 to the present-day generation of food aficionados.

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SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 9, 2012 PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER D1

Editor Thelma Sioson San Juan
Sunday LIFESTYLE
Contributing Editor Chit Roces
SHARING THE VOICE OF AGE AND WISDOM

S Sexy Stimulating Sage Survivor

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SMART LIVE MORE

The difference between a 'public servant' and a 'public official'

By referring to them as 'officials,' we subvert our own role as 'boss' and become complicit in their failure to deliver genuine public service

By Blanche David-Galbadon
Contributor

SOMETIME IN the '80s, with an artist friend, Inigo Pelaez, I went to see a homeopath for reasons I cannot now recall. He surprised me with his first question. How would I want to be remembered? I recall briefly considering the question, and almost instantly answering that I would like to be remembered as a "caring person."

In retrospect, it does really have I would like to be remembered? It sounds so vanal, so banal it sup-one suppose, earnest. How, indeed, do I want to be remembered?

I grapple with this question now as I add yet another candle to my already overcrowded birthday cake and mourn the passing of a year I never even knew, save as an increasingly expensive and obsessive of the passing political scene.

Thankfully, I also observed that there was no swinging of hands, no finger pointing in the wake of the widespread outpouring of public grief over the accidently demise of this exemplary public servant.

When all is said and done, what indeed is Jesse Robredo remembered for? What are all the accolades and eulogies about? Are they not about one thing, and one thing only—the servant leadership that defined and encompassed all that he did and stood for?

But what is servant leadership, and what does it take to be a servant leader? Christ defines it best in this passage from Mark 9:35: "Sitting down, Jesus called the Twelve and said, 'If anyone wants to be the first, he must be the very last and the servant of all.'" There, in a nutshell, lies the answer.

And Dave, likewise, has his detractors; the accident summary of what, in general, ails our government leadership. The majority of those we elect, or are appointed into public office, are wont to reverse the equation. Then put themselves first, and treat "all" others as lair and servants to their own private agendas. Sadly, not

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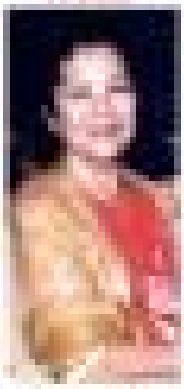

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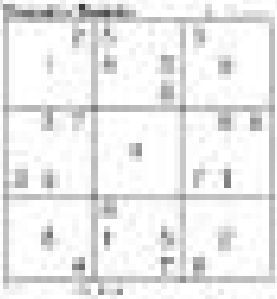

Sunday Crossword

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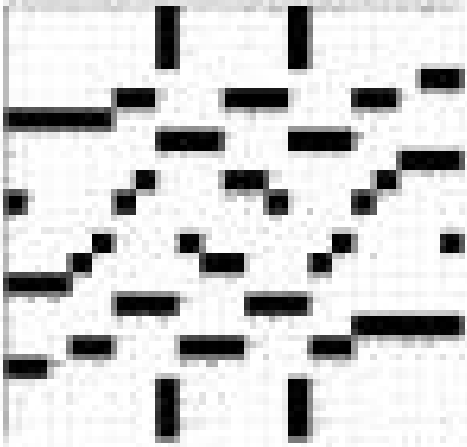

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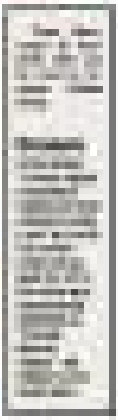


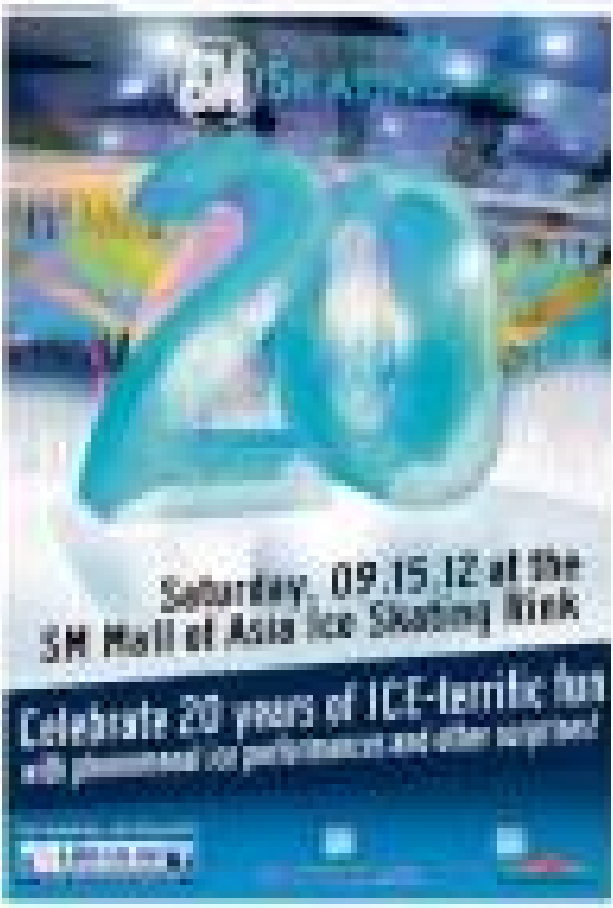
ers

He said that for some kind of symbiosis, some couples at some point begin to look alike, but nobody warned us about any tendency toward cookie-dressing

ers?

They are expressions
of what our hearts can no longer keep in

unt' and a 'public official'



Happy birthday, dearest mother

Janie Keithley Castro

SHINE

What better gift can I give her than to share the story of my conversion?

I DEBATED with myself about writing this, as in this "branding" age, many deep, soul-consuming will make their way to Facebook or Twitter. But ultimately, I decided that what people thought of me wasn't important.

This week the Church celebrates what it believes to be the birthday of Mama Mary, and what better gift can I give her than to share the story of my conversion?

Since the news of my illness came out, a number of people who had come to visit me kept asking why I had become such a passionate Marian devotee.

I have kept silent about this for almost 20 years, as I felt that there was so much more to say about the messages and history of Marian apparitions, and that what happened to me wasn't important.

But everything happens for a reason, and as the Lady said: "What good is it if I keep coming to visit you and give you messages if you only hide those away in a drawer?"

My illness made me realize that we must make use of what every time we have left to consume us away.

My conversion started in Medjugorje, and continues to this day.

It was the year of the canonization of St. Lorenzo Ruiz. My son Diego was to perform for the Pope with the troupe of Ms. Antoni Bernet Inbon, and I accompanied him to Rome.

It was my first time in Europe and I was so excited. I planned on my time in to Assisi to visit my friend Gibbi.

Among the pilgrims in Rome were Ching Cavalez and Ateneo Aquino. All the Pinoys were talking about going to that little village in Yugoslavia where Mama Mary was said to appear.

This [illegible] surprised me to change my plans and go with them. But I would have none of that! My first time in Europe would not be wasted in some poor village.

On the train to Sorrento, Ingo and I were in a compartment shared in front of an elderly couple, and the lady was reading a newspaper with "Medjugorje" and a photo of a Marian image on the front page. I was intrigued and struck up a conversation with them just as I could borrow the paper.

The couple was from Costa Rica, and was thrilled to discover that we were Filipinos! "Do you have given hope to the world! Because of your People!" Pero yes, how shown ya that we do not have to go up to Europe? Of course, I got to borrow the paper, which was in Spanish.

Upon my return from Europe, I decided that the first book I would produce with my new professional video equipment would be for God, and the second for country.

That afternoon after school, Diego said accidentally, holding a book he had borrowed from his teacher for me. It was Fr. Ernie Lacuesta's "In the Blessed Virgin Mary Really Appearing in Medjugorje?"

I took it up and sat down the book I was starting to show my appreciation.

I found it, my first clues.

The spinning sun

I brought a copy to Medjugorje. I was skeptical at first, as there were so many mails in the plaza flaunting the church. There I met the visionary Fr. Slavko, cried when Fr. Jozo laid hands on me; saw the spinning sun; watched my rosary turn from silver to gold; and had the smell of roses and longing planted in my heart.

When I got back to Manila, I turned over all the materials to my scriptwriter, but two weeks later she came and said that she couldn't do it, and that perhaps I should write it myself.

I had never written a script! Talk, I could, and how! But write? What an agony!

We had turned our living room into an editing area, and I would write from late night to early morning, filing our raw material scene at a time.

Ryan Cayabyab had given me his Tagalog composition, "Hail Holy Queen," to use in the closing, and I loved to sing along with it. One morning around 3 a.m., I was sitting on a chair and singing the refrain, "Dyakita no Reyna ng Awa," over and over again, when all of a sudden I felt like someone had thrown a shawl over me.

I froze. The hair on my arms stood on end, and I felt that there was someone behind me. I could not look at it, but who I had my back to the wall? I could feel the presence, but wasn't scared as it was warm and enveloping.

Then I felt a hand take my face and turn it toward the glass door on the right, and I heard a voice say, "If you could see Him with my eyes, then you would love him as I do."

And there, behind the glass door, at the corner of the patio was Jesus! He was dressed in a long robe that softly glowed, and he was bare feet, lovingly smoking the head of a sheep.

I was stunned. My chair hit the floor with a thud, and I was filled with overwhelming emotion and uncontrollable tears. I was later to learn that this is often referred to as "the waterfall of love."

I don't remember what happened after that, but when I regained my composure, I knew that I couldn't tell my husband about it, because he would think I was crazy and order me to stop working on the docs. So I decided to go to the Cluny Church. It was after 6 a.m., and I was the only one there.

I didn't know what to pray. I had forgotten the mysteries of the rosary, so I just sat there apologizing to God when all of a sudden, there at the altar, as if in a stage play, the mysteries of the rosary began to play out and Jesus, Mary, Joseph, were real—flesh and blood.

Two mysteries were burned unforgettably in my mind and heart. The Last and Finding in the Temple, and The Agony in the Garden.

In the first, I saw the boy Jesus seated on a rock, and going down the steps to meet Joseph. With was some distance behind. I couldn't hear the actual words, but knew that he was being scolded for what he had done. I saw Mary finish interview by when he turned to say that she, of all people, should have known where he was. She bowed her head and was silent.

He realized that he had hurt her, and followed his parents quietly, and I heard in my heart, "and he turned and went up with Jesus in obedience."

The agony in the garden was a Jesus I had never seen or experienced. The physical Jesus kneeling at a rock, looking up belly were the images I had of that mystery, but this was not what I saw.

Intense interior pain

I saw a man in intense interior pain, not able to sit or stand for long. He would get up and walk to the back, and then walk slowly passionate as the sun rose were asleep, then he would go back to the rock and cry and groan, then stand and pace back and forth.

I told Lydia Kuan what I saw, and how surprised I was at the mention of Gethsemane in the play.

That's funny, Lydia excitedly told me that a book had been published on the visions of Maria Valtorta, and that the vision I had was exactly what was in the book.

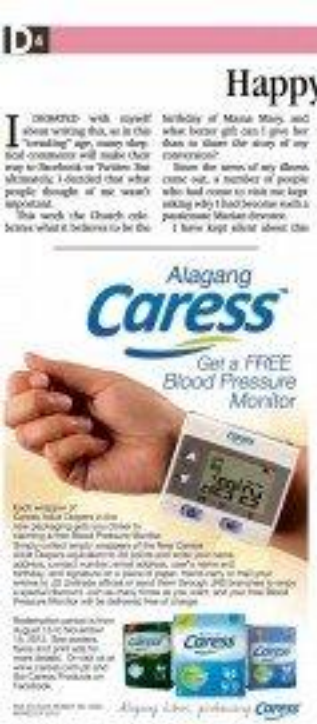
Many years later, when Mel Gibson's film on the Passion was released, I felt as if I was impaled in the cinema chair, as I watched again what I had seen complete at the altar of Cluny Church in 1989.

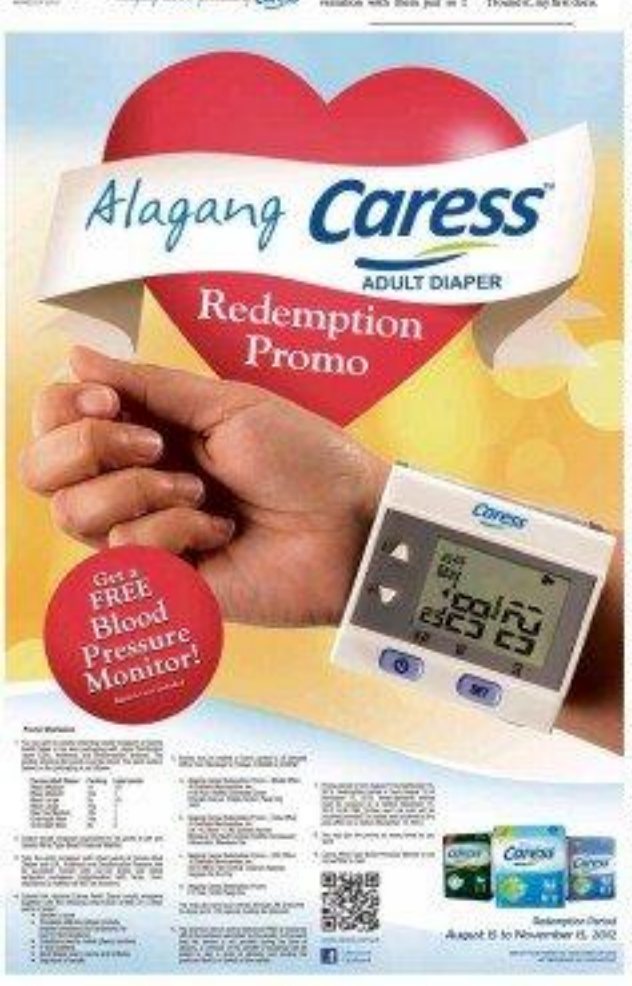
I have had other experiences. I was hit by a bale of light from an open tabernacle in the Adoration House. I felt as if I had shot up like a rocket then. I saw angels on the roof outside my bedroom; I saw an aged Melchizedek standing at the center of a room in Carmel; and my 5-year-old granddaughter saw Mama Mary on the hill of Medjugorje and told me that she was wearing a blue "shawl" and said she couldn't stay for long as her Son was waiting for her—and "where my son is, there I must be also." Then, from a 3-year old child.

I share all this in the hope that you may believe. We are given many gifts, and allowed the free will to make our choices.

Mama Mary has said she has come to tell us that God really does exist. However, she wants us that evil is also trying to destroy our faith and our families, so she is encouraging in her efforts to lead us to her Son.

Happy birthday, dearest mother; this is for you.





Dulaang UP's 'The Seagull/Ang Tagak'

DULAANG UP brings to the stage one of the best-known and best-loved classics in theater, Anton Chekhov's "The Seagull," featuring the latest English translation by Tom Stoppard, and the Filipino translation titled "Ang Tagak," by the late National Artist for Theater and Literature, Rolando Tinio.

This production, directed by Dulaang UP board member and artistic director Tony Mabesa, will be staged both in English and Filipino, starting today, at the Whitmore Mo Guan-wee Theater, Palma Hall, UP Diliman.

Stoppard's adaptation premiered in New York in 2007, and featured a star-studded cast that included Meryl Streep as Irina Arkin Gine as Trigorin, and Natalie Portman as Nina, under the direction of Mike Nichols. This is the first time a Philippine production is staging Stoppard's multi-awarded translation of Chekhov's play.

The plot revolves around young Konstantin Treplev, a budding playwright who has big dreams of creating a new art form. He premieres his first play which stars his great love, Nina Zarechnaya. Unfortunately, the Treplev his literal performance is overshadowed by art is challenged by his mother Irina's utter disregard for his efforts and

Nina's affections drifting away to Konstantin's lover, the successful novelist Boris Trigorin.

The production stars Ana Abad Santos, Frances Makil-Ignacio, Eric Quizado, Lee Roldy, Menggie Cobarrubias, Jeremy Domingo, Althea Ilaya and Stella Cadiz Bakias, and premiering actors Carlo Tandoc, Zarraben Madrinan, Aaron Gaerlan and Nadine Samonte.

Associate direction by Arlo Mendoza, stage management by Lou Bartolome, costume design by Eric Pineda, set design and technical direction by Christoval Gonzales, lighting design by Jay Gonzales, sound design by Jaffre Joaquin, photography by Dino Ermac, and makeup by Christian Morabito.

"The Seagull/Ang Tagak" is ongoing until Oct. 7, at 8:00 till 10:00 p.m. Tickets: Palma Hall, University of the Philippines Diliman. Call tel. 926-2488, 981-8500 local 2446, or 433-7681 (Camille Bonanno or Samuela Claire).

Sunday LIFESTYLE

Young French-Filipino designer in Elle's 25th anniversary exhibit

A 'silya' for seniors everywhere

By Linda O. Bolido

TITO LORETE Alcala is not one to wait for the annual Grandparents' Day celebration to honor the elderly.

For months now, the former advertising man has been offering free rocking chairs to those who would care to accept them, for the use of the elderly as they make an errand in restaurants or to take a breather when they go walking.

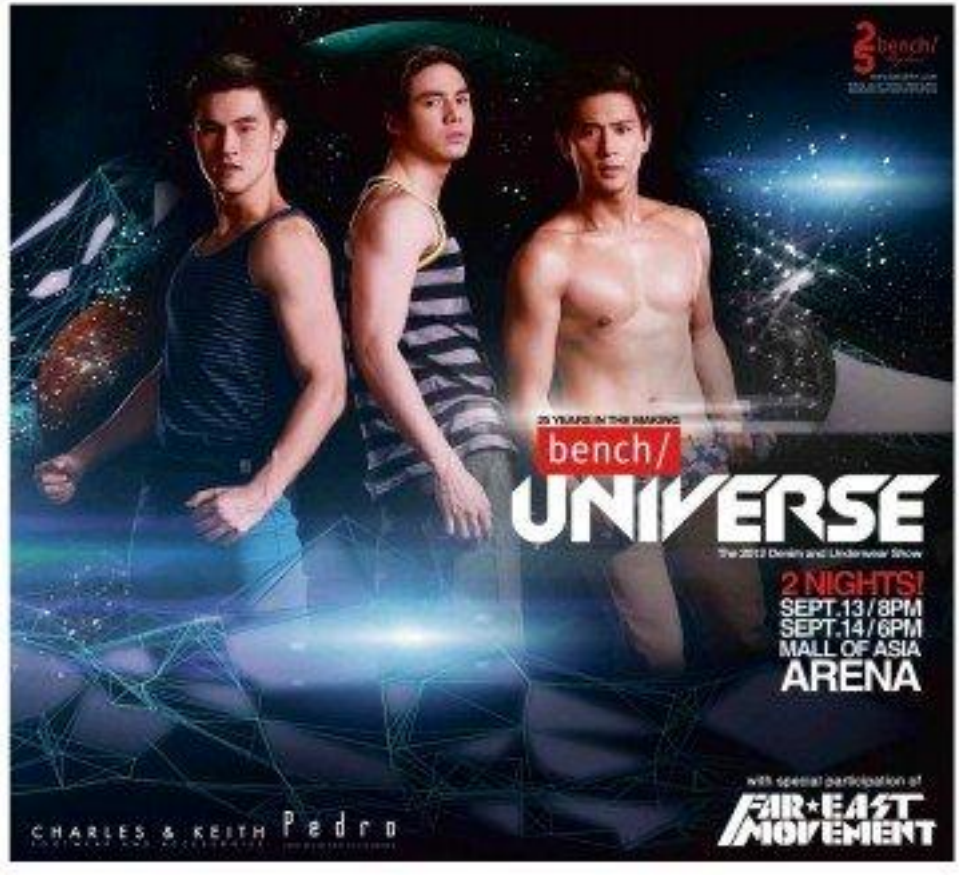
Alcala thought of providing this convenience after he realized how an otherwise enjoyable outing was often marred for his octogenarian parents by the lack of a comfortable spot where they could catch their breath and get their second wind to conclude relishing their day out.

Restaurants do not really want you occupying their chairs unless you are a paying customer, and malls provide one-size-fits-all seats. Alcala decided to donate chairs adapted to the frail frames and fragile bones of senior citizens.

The retired managing director of the Ayala Group, Inc. calls his initiative Silya, or Sa Iyo Lolo at Lola, Tabok Anang Alay.

Although pastel means sass, some of the chairs are made completely of wood.

A'SKM 09



Prayer to Beato Pedro Calungsod; Vic and Roselynn Magsaysay mark 50th wedding anniversary

AS WE AWAIT the great day of Oct. 21 when Pope Benedict XVI canonizes Visayan martyr Pedro Calungsod and six other "Marawi" in Rome, let us pray that they may intercede for the safety of our country from earthquakes, typhoons and tsunamis. Let us also pray for our the youth, poor, sick and for friends and relatives who are very sick.

Here's the prayer to Beato Pedro Calungsod, and with the enthusiastic approval of Cardinal Vidal:

"Blessed Pedro Calungsod, student, catechist, young migrant, missionary, faithful friend, martyr, you inspire us by your fidelity in times of adversity; by your courage in teaching the faith to the midst of hostility; and by your love in upholding your blessed faith even unto death.

PURELY PERSONAL

Josephine Danong

"Make our troubles your own. Bless mankind, your gospel, and intercede for us before the throne of Mercy and Grace so that, as we supplicate the help of heaven, we may be encouraged to live and proclaim the Gospel here on earth. Amen. Blessed Pedro Calungsod, pray for us."

Calungsod shrine in Guam

Al Wikipedia, Atl Refil Garcia and I were very blessed to have been able to visit the shrine of Blessed Pedro Calungsod and Blessed Diego Luis de San Vitores behind the Guam Reef Hotel in Tumon Bay.

Louie Andreas, brother of our host Alvin Jay Andreas, drove us to the shrine. The site was where San Vitores and Calungsod were martyred and then thrown by their executioners into the sea on April 2, 1672.

By the way, a late report from Guam says that the 3-ft statue of Our Lady of Manaoag donated by Silva Osano Tovil to the St. Anthony and St. Victor Church in Tamuning will undergo a special place inside the church, so devotees can easily go and pray to her.

FORMER Zambales Gov. Vicente and Roselynn Magsaysay with their children Angelica Cheng, Paris-based Victor Magsaysay, Jesse Vicente Magsaysay and Rep. Mitos Magsaysay

BLESSED Pedro Calungsod is the youngest to be canonized by the Roman Catholic Church

Binalaan 'beata'

Prof. Gabby Lopez texted me to say that the late Jesse Robredo "deserves his eternal reward with God. He has become immortal and a saintly intercessor for us. One day, he shall be our first Filipino beata."

Mass of Remembrance on Sept. 10

The Prayer Warriors of the Holy Souls will hold a Mass of Remembrance on Sept. 10, 11 a.m., at the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Chapel on the lower level of the Immaculate Conception Cathedral on Lantana St. in Cubao.

Fr. Jojo Ezeruela will celebrate the Mass and lead the prayers for the repose of the souls of Dr. Stanley Monfort, founder of PWHS, who died Sept. 5, 2009; for the 3,000 victims of the 9/11 attacks, in which some 300 children and 343 firefighters were believed to have been killed; and those who died during the Pol Pot/Khmer Rouge genocide in September 1948 and 1972.

484 boys and girls to be confirmed

On the feast of Our Lady of La Salette on Sept. 19, 484 boys and girls from Bonifacio and Gilfrancis in Barangay Sico in Silang, Cavite, will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation from Manila Auxiliary Bishop Bernardino Cortez at the Calderon Gymnasium.

My friend Mike Dolotina, who has been acting as godparent for the past 14 years, told me that it is truly a privilege to be asked to be a godparent. (For confirmation or inquiries, you may contact sentilgan@yahoo.com.)

St. Michael's Chapel is 50

St. Michael's Chapel on Aurora Drive, Versgawide Subdivision, and under the Good Shepherd Parish in Las Piñas, will turn 50 years on Sept. 29, the feast of the archangel.

Several activities have been lined up this September, such as the Alay Lakad last Sun (Sept. 1; "A Right to Dance" last Sept. 8 at the Dr. Bonifacio Hall of Good Shepherd Parish Pastoral Center; free medical, dental, optical missions on Sept. 15 at the Tropicville Multipurpose Covered Court; and an on-the-spot drawing contest and a Palaro at San Miguel for the kids at the chapel courtyard on Sept. 23.

St. Michael Novena Masses

Novena Masses will be held every 6 p.m., Sept. 21-29. A procession in honor of the Archangel will take place at 4 p.m. on Sept. 29, the actual feast.

The Glorified-Saint Nenita Mass will be held Sept. 30, 6 a.m., to be followed by a photo memorabilia exhibit showing historic milestones of the parish for the last 50 years.

Magsaysay golden-wedding anniversary

Roselynn Magsaysay, who has been organizing the devotion on "Ina Poon Nato" for 20 years, and former Zambales Gov. Victor Magsaysay celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with a Thanksgiving Mass officiated by Msgr. Cris Cuebo and Fr. Larry Faraon recently.

Their son Victor Magsaysay flew in from Papua New Guinea, sister Angelica Cheng, sister-in-law Gigi Mitos Magsaysay and another sister, Lourdes Magsaysay, were also there.

Jay Ponce, "commander" of the Navotas Sclers do la Verdad y Justicia, urges everyone to catch the veneration of Maria Ramirmella and the role of Mary's will today at the Procession of the Child Jesus Church at 98 Hontan Pandayan. The veneration began yesterday, the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Those who are sick can ask for miraculous healing from the Blessed Mother.

Flowers needed

Members of Rosary ca devotion the 4th of Our Lady of Peñafrancia and the Naga Cathedral are needed during the 10 days of the fiesta (Sep. 7-16).

Fr. Rex Hidalgo, an Iriliad el parish priest (Msgr. Noe Hachuela, makes this appeal.

You can donate cash or checks to China Banking Corporation (Naga City) with account number 262-1561557. T, under the account name Msgr. Noe & Imelda and/or Fr. Rex Hidalgo (our Msgr. the ac- 0988-4619417, or Fr. Rex at 0917-5372682).

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Premium prizes await soon-to-weds at Asia's biggest wedding fair

THEMES & MOTIFS' Wedding Expo Philippines, now on its 21st edition, once again hosts the two-day grand event on Sept. 8-9, at the SMX Convention Center, 5th Road of Aseo Complex.

Some 400 wedding suppliers will participate in what is now considered Asia's biggest wedding fair.

Soon-to-weds and their guests may get free admission by pre-registering online through www.theknotweddings.com (The Wedding Knot Portal Philippines) or get free passes from the showrooms of Thomas & Mirabelle in Makati Shangri-La.

Among the prizes awaiting soon-to-weds couples at the expo are three-days, two-nights Hong Kong honeymoon for the 3 lucky pairs of fashionable wedding rings set with emerald cut diamonds in 14k white-gold settings and valued at P120,000, and a finely crafted set of 12 pairs silver wedding ornaments worth P480,000. Both from Golden Gifts; and Smart Shop Studio's P160,000-worth photo and video coverage package.

Through the years, by serving as the launch venue of choice for wedding-related products, services and companies, Wedding Expo Philippines has helped thousands of brides and grooms prepare for their big day by rolling out the latest, finest and best wedding ideas. Its roster of exhibitors are pre-screened so that soon-to-weds can focus on wedding professionals that have legitimate businesses rather than unaccredited fly-by-night operators.

This year's September edition features the launch of the beta version of www.themesandmotifs.com/TheWeddingKnot Portal Philippines, the Philippines' first and only interactive wedding website for soon-to-weds and wedding professionals.

This portal of Philippine wedding resources allows its users to easily plan wedding planning ideas of photos, videos and articles through their very own free online T&M account (called a "website"). They can get and share great wedding ideas and connect with the Pinoy wedding community all over the Philippines and around the world.

Its Facebook integration allows readers, families and friends to post comments. "like" uploaded entries and send wedding greetings to brides and grooms through their website. Personalized email passes to T&M events can be downloaded for FREE directly from a website.

On the other hand, Pinoy wedding professionals from anywhere in the world can connect to thousands of brides and grooms in the T&M database by creating their own account and posting their contact information on the portal's Wedding Professionals Directory for free. An upgraded account allows a wedding professional to promote a product, service or company by posting photos, videos or blogs in his own website, which automatically uploads to the portal's homepage as well, for added exposure for the wedding company.

A special page is present and great deals becomes a virtual marketplace where soon-to-weds can view a summary of special offers, discounts, giveaways, etc., posted by wedding professionals in their respective T&M accounts.

WHAT'S UP

AWARDED TO SUNDAY CROSSWORD

Mix and Match Those Cravings with McDonald's Happy Bundle

Differences in personalities and style make life more interesting for everyone. Group ordering for meals, however, can be challenging. Sometimes, everyone just wants different things.

Wouldn't it be nice to mix and match your McDonald's cravings when you're with your friends or family? With McDonald's Happy Bundle A, yes you can! Happy Bundle is McDonald's bundled group meals that can be enjoyed by any group of four people. It makes it fun and convenient for you to mix, match and complete your favorites from McDonald's so that everyone is satisfied. Plus it saves you all both time and money!

Happy Bundle A allows you to mix and match by letting you pick any combinations of four favorite McDonald's sandwiches or burgers. There are five to choose from: Big Mac, Quarter Pounder with Cheese, Double Cheeseburger, McChicken Sandwich or Filet-O-Fish. Individual cravings are satisfied and each person gets their own Medium Fries and Regular Softdrinks. For only P495, Happy Bundle A saves you P121 (than if you ordered all of the items a la carte, isn't that a great deal?

McDonald's also offers Happy Bundle B which can have either four pieces of Chicken McDo or 20 pieces of Chicken McNuggets, with four portions of McSpaghetti, two Large Fries and four Regular Softdrinks. This saves you P200 than if you ordered a la carte. Happy Bundle B is perfect for sit-down meals for 4 – enjoy it too with your family and friends!

Happy Bundle is available via www.McDelivery.com.ph or by dialing 3-KLUB. So call the gals, word up the boys, or gather the family anywhere you want and order a Happy Bundle. There's something for everyone to enjoy with Happy Bundle.

For more information, visit www.mcdelivery.com.ph.

Grandparents' Day Treats at Megaworld Lifestyle Malls

Megaworld Lifestyle Malls is making grandparents' day even more special with exciting discounts at participating establishments in Eastwood City, Venice Piazza, Burgos Circle at Forbes Town Center, Newport Mall and Lucky Chinatown.

Lolos and Lolas aged 60 and above who dine together with their grandkids and family of four can get 50% discount on his or her total Dine September 7 to 9, 2012. Meanwhile, grandparents aged 59 and below can avail of 20% discount on his or her meal. Grandparents simply have to show valid ID, senior citizen card or passport to avail of the discount.

Dine at any one these restaurants without breaking a sweat! Forget the stress of planning your day because Megaworld Lifestyle Malls Concierge is going to make it so much easier by making the reservations for you. All you have to do is call 709-0888, 709-8888 or 0917-5580811. Just let them know when and where you want to dine, and leave the rest up to them! See posters for the promo mechanics. For a complete list of participating restaurants, please visit www.megaworldlifestylemalls.com.

Participating Restaurants

Eastwood City
Cafe enfin by Donie, Meson Cafe, Ramen Bar, Tatoo's, Agave Mexican Cafe, Pasta Italian Cafe and Dessert Bar, Old Vine Grille, Persis Grill, Jack's Loft, My Thai, Pho Hoa, 1771 Cafe, Zao Vietnamese Bistro, Chuck's Deli, Starbee's, Kagi Shibuya, Uncle Chuffy, Bandai, Genki King, The Sandwich Guy, Bhelkuh, The Flying Pig, The Coffee Bean and Tea Leaf, UCC, Ramsay's Grill, Thousand Cranes Shabu Shabu, Magnet's Pizza, BunChan Chicken

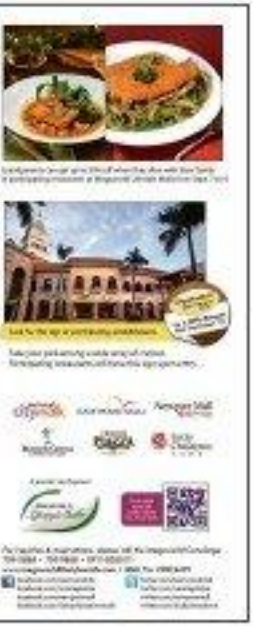
Venice Piazza at McKinley Hill
Ramen Bar, Yo Sushi by BTC, Asian, Little Asia, Tokyo Cafe, Starbee's, My Thai Oily Bar, Pho Hoa, Old Vine Grille, Kuse, The Red Crab Almazan House, Sol Gelato, Blackwood Bistro, Pinches Restaurant and Bar, Coffee Bean and Tea Leaf, Reyes Barbeque, Dunkin' Cafe

Lucky Chinatown
Uncle Chuffy, King Chef Seafood Restaurant, Kagi Shibuya, Kuse, Little Asia, The Red Crab Almazan House, Kitta Steakout Dining, Shi Lin, Innerism, UCC, BunChan Chicken

Newport Mall at Resorts World Manila
Portuguese's Steakers, Donnie Bistro, Krazy Garlic, Recipes, The Red Crab Almazan House, Coffee Bean and Tea Leaf, UCC, Republic Cafe, Opus Restaurant and Lounge, Sate Deluxe, Mr. Kurosawa, Thousand Cranes Shabu Shabu

Burgos Circle at Forbes Town Center
Barclay's Wine Bar Restaurant, Coffee Bean and Tea Leaf, Uncle Chuffy, Jinn Thai, Effenberg's, UCC, Sugar House, The Kebab Factory, Continenta

Promo period is from September 7 - 9, 2012. For DELIVER Details & T&Cs: Call 709-0888 or 0917-5580811.



Martial law through young eyes

Bantayog ng mga Bayani is a landscaped memorial honoring those who lived and died in defiance of the repressive regime

LAOAG City (south), on Sept. 21, the country marks the 40th anniversary of martial law—one of the darkest periods in our republic's history.

I wanted to create a deeper awareness of martial law among the students in my last-year panel class by using the lessons gathered during this period as an author for our lessons, culminating in a retelling of several of the stories from that period.

To kick off our lessons, I took 10 of my 37 students to the Bantayog ng mga Bayani in Quezon City so they could better understand the period.

I was almost eight years old when martial law was declared by then President Marcos. My childhood in the '70s and all the way in the '80s was really to be honest, more right than left.

However, interviewing Thelma Reyes, whose son Perdie was a martial law hero, and reading the accounts of the Quinpaos in the landmark book "Subversive Lives" opened my eyes to the grim realities of that period.

The trip to Bantayog was a learning experience for myself and my students, whose parents were probably the same age if not, when martial law was declared.

"Bantayog ng mga Bayani," stated "dominated by the heroes." It is a landscaped memorial honoring those who lived and died in defiance of the repressive regime. By depicting anchronistic objects associated with the heroes and martyrs, as well as with the period of dictatorship, the Bantayog helped us imagine ourselves in the situations in powerful sense of history.

The rationale behind the Bantayog is explained in a concept paper: "Let us honor the Filipino persons who struggled valiantly against the unjust and repressive rule of Ferdinand Marcos. Let us build a memorial to those men and women who offered their lives so that we may all live the dream. For as we remember those victims of authoritarian rule, we shall become more vigilant about preserving our freedom, defending our rights, and opposing any attempt by anyone to foist unjust, tyrannical dictatorship upon us. In building one memory, we proclaim our determination to be free forever."

Sacred grounds

"History here has a way," my classmate Melissa wried to her neighbor in class. "What is other side signifies the reunion of Bantayog ng mga Bayani."

As we walked through the hallowed grounds, where stood the black granite memorial bearing more than 3,000 names, her words filled with sadness and sense at the lives lost in the fight for freedom.

Some images stayed with my students long after they had left the museum and monument. "One photo that haunted me depicted a man being taken away by a band that was seven, maybe larger than the person it self, showing the inferiority of many Filipinos and the superiority of the dictator at that time. This photo of an abused man, a child, shows how fear that was pervasive in many Filipinos before during that period, no matter the age, gender, social class," one student wrote.

It was struck by the replica of the jail cell which, according to Jaime Reyes Memorial of the Bantayog Museum, was set up by a former detainee who had been through unspeakable horrors during martial law.

It could not fathom how, as Grace described it, 15-24 persons could be held in a cell that could not have measured more than 6x8 ft. by 6 ft.

Interesting to me also was how my students were moved as the night of Eduardo Cuenco's 16-story Isang Bayan mansion. It consists of a fallen figure who held by the rising figure of a woman who symbolizes the Motherland. Her other hand touching for the glorious sun of freedom."

There are fallen martyrs in each one of us. In the simplest manner of being Filipinos, we are all a living testament to our unique and beautiful culture and history. Many times, we fall and fail in our mission of being true Filipinos, but with every rising sun, there is always hope. Bayan, or the nation as a whole, that drives and pushes us to strive to climb and persevere. Because we are true to make our nation proud," my student Melissa wrote.

The era of September, my class will be devoted to learning learned and the issues many families suffered during martial law...how these issues affected families for generations, and how these sacrifices impacted on the lives of survivors and of their kin.

Teaching these lessons, retelling their stories in a language this succeeding generations will better appreciate and understand, is our small contribution to honor those who gave up their lives so that the darkest period in our history will never happen again.

Visit www.bantayog.org

Follow the author on Twitter @rubyboluso or through her blog www.rubysoluso.wordpress.com.

Kindness and compassion create the miracle of a better world

By Fr. Tito Caluag
Contributor

'Daang matuwid' is not just the straight path, but the straight and narrow—purifying—path

WHEN DESIRES more, the miracle takes place. We have seen this work so often during crisis, whether on a personal or social level.

I've experienced this with many families having a crisis, be it an illness or some abuse or danger. I've witnessed this in organizations or communities that are put to the test by some major setback or challenge. *As a people, we've gone through this during calamities.*

The story of the healing of the deaf-mute man in today's Gospel is *about such a meeting of desires.* Perhaps more appropriately, it is the *confluence of desires that enables* the miracle to take place: the desire of the man to be healed, the desire of his friends to be introduced well, Christ for his healing, and the desire of Christ to heal him.

In the confluence of desires, miracles happen because we set aside personal interests and personal agendas. When the desire is for the good of others, it brings out the best in us. When we are at our best, the *miracle happens.*

Last Wednesday, I was watching the Democratic Party's National convention, which culminated in the nomination speech of former President Bill Clinton. Both the evening meeting, over and above Clinton's brilliant speech, was the speech of Dr. Simeon Campbell, who is one of the founders of "Nurse on the Bus."

'Nurse on the Bus'

"Nurse on the Bus" was founded by a group of Catholic nuns who literally got on a bus and went around several states to support the reelection bid of President Barack Obama. They stopped in towns and cities and talked to people about their cause.

Sr. Simeon's refrain was "We share responsibility." She narrated three stories of ordinary citizens with concerns relating to healthcare, welfare and education. Each story ended with the question "Will you and the one being helped share responsibility for the well being of each and everyone.

The code I with these lines: "Listen to one another with kindness and compassion. Listen to one another rather than shout at one another... We care for the 100-percent. This is what will make for liberty and freedom."

Brokenness

This is a message not just for the American people, but for us Filipinos as well, and all of humanity. We must "listen to one another with kindness and compassion. Listen to one another rather than shout at one another." Ultimately it is truly caring for one another, especially for the weakest and least among us, that will set us free.

The Gospel shows us the sensibility of Christ: "Ephphatha! That is, 'Be opened!'" The cry of the deaf-mute. Christ heard this, and what is even more moving is how he brings the deaf-mute aside to heal him in private.

Several scripture commentators point out that the life of the deaf-mute was very embarrassing and agonizing. He could not talk, many around, see and feel, but alone he could not hear, he also could not speak. It was not so much the speech that was the problem, but the inability to hear.

For it was the speech impediment that became very obvious. And it was also what led to the ridicule of the mute person.

Christ's desire to heal was heightened by his care and compassion for the deaf-mute. He saw not just the man's physical need, but access to his dignity and path of being everything, literally and figuratively. Christ saw him this man was broken.

Christ's desire, guided by care and compassion, made him bring the deaf-mute aside and, in such solitude with Christ, the man's dignity was restored. The miracle was the man being made whole again.

The desire of the friends of the deaf-mute to have him healed called attention to the man's plight, and their desire and faith helped move Christ to heal the man. And it was also when there is a miracle of compassion, the confluence of desire inspired by care and compassion.

This is Fr. Simeon's message. Indeed, we are responsible for one another, and we must be responsible for one another with kindness and compassion.

Appropriate time

The message speaks to us in a most appropriate time. Over two years ago, our people and nation believed there was hope for a better life, and with a miraculous turn of events—in the confluence of desires—in their better life—the yearning for doing matuwid. The straight path brought people together to elect a president they believed embodied this desire.

After over two years, much has been done to set the record straight. Doing 'Hindi ako' and halting reforms does not happen in a few years. It's good to remember that the daang matuwid is not just the straight path, but the straight and narrow path.

The image of the narrow path symbolizes a period of purification. It is the time of the journey where desires are laid bare, when the concern for the common and greater good helps purify these desires, from being self-centered into becoming selfless and other-centered.

The process leading to selfless desires—when self-centeredness dissolves—is the time of purification, when we are challenged to grow in care and compassion. We hope and dream of a society where everyone is free from exploitation, poverty, hunger and sickness; and liberated from a sense of victimhood that makes people more receptive to manipulation and opportunists.

We want us to be able to dream of a better future for ourselves and our family, and, more so to be able to work hard and decently to attain this dream not just for ourselves, but also for our community.

Caring for all

"We share responsibility." We are responsible for one another. Furthermore, we must care "for the 100-percent" and not for those we favor and with whom we have shared interests. The call is to care for all, especially those who have less...the disadvantaged and the voiceless.

When we were in college back in the '70s, it was the height of Liberation Theology or Theo-Lib.

Theo Lib presented the Catholic faith in a way that was then considered radical and pro-poor. It advocated structural changes in societies to help address social injustice and inequality. Because of that, Theo Lib was often associated with left-leaning political or ideological orientations.

With the collapse of communism, the fall of the Berlin Wall and the opening of China to the world, the appeal and impact of Liberation Theology seem to have waned. And to that, the rise of a global outlook and consciousness and many in an out-of-our life. Thanks to technology, we are more and more becoming one global community.

Christian imperative

That's why, now more than ever, that the need for a Christian imperative. "Listen to one another with kindness and compassion. Listen to one another rather than shout at one another." We care for the 100-per cent. This is what will make for liberty and freedom."

We must begin in our communities—the family we belong to, the neighborhood we live in, the church that nurtures our faith, the offices/organizations we work with, the schools our children attend, the groups we influence, the world we share with humanity.

The confluence of our desires will enable the miracle of a caring, kind and compassionate world to come into being, a world where the helper and the helped share the responsibility of looking for the well being of everyone else.

This is the Kingdom of God in our midst—a Kingdom of Love and Compassion, the confluence of God's desire for us to experience his everlasting love, with our desire for the fullness of life and liberty that only God can give us when we desire for God himself.

Pilgrimage tours to Marian shrines

LA DELA Philippine Tours, Inc. is offering two 4-day pilgrimage tours in the form spoken of Sept 20 with Fr. Nelson Bautista, a much-loved healing priest from the Archdiocese of Manila. Assisted by Fr. Nelson will provide pilgrims the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Holy Communion, as well as reflect on select Gospel readings and lead a healing service during the day-long pilgrimage tours.

On Oct. 13, the month of the Holy Rosary, visit one of the country's beloved Marian pilgrimage sites, the Basilica of Our Lady of the Rosary of Manaoag. While in Pangasinan, the tour will also make visits to Calasiao, at the Saints Peter and Paul Parish Church, or Dominic Wood Barbie site and National Cultural Treasure, and the Shrine Church Tenorio Shrine where the miraculous image of the crucified Christ is housed. Tour cost is P3,800 per person.

On Nov. 28, offer prayer intentions to the miraculous image of Our Lady of the Holy Rosary of Santo Domingo, Bulacan. Church stops will also be made at the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Malolos, and at the Church of St. Michael de Cotus. Tour cost is P2,600 per person.

Costs are inclusive of land travel via an air-conditioned tourist motor coach, buffet lunch, and the services of a DOT-accredited Tour Director. Only 40 seats are available per tour.

An added blessing in joining the pilgrimage tours is the opportunity to consecrate the pilgrim into of St. Joseph Manila, founder of the Oratory of St. Joseph, which Fr. Nelson will be bringing with him. Like in the opposite of the south and the by-law of the tours.

Call 8560004, 5145714, 8910-8211/8918, 0917-5278888, 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Monday-Friday.

Aroma candle-making seminar

The Golden Treasure Skills Development Programs will conduct a seminar on aroma candle making and fresh flowers arrangement to be held on the 3rd floor of Golden Treasure Commercial Development, Mapagmahal Avenue, corner Hanan Street, Makati City on Sept. 15, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Participants will get to experience how to make candles using different methods and techniques such as the dipping method, pouring, mold-making, swirling, hand-forming and carving.

Participants will receive a certificate of training upon after the seminar. Lunch and snacks will be served.

Call 421-1827, 0 0920-5...-6...-0290, visit www.GoldenTreasureSkills.com.

University of the Philippines, Diliman, Quezon City on Sept 15, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.

Does this 'friendship' have to be defined?

Embrace your non-relationship with him

EMILY'S POST

Emily A. Mercado

DEAR EMILY,

I was 30 when I went out on a blind date with a widower. I've never been married, but I lived with a divorced man for 14 years, who had two of his younger children under 7 are living off my parents' properties, but my friends thought it was almost time I got married and live together with this guy, whose wife died over 10 years ago. He's a wealthy businessman with three grown children.

I found him dark, uncommunicative and unattractive, but since I am able to adjust to any personality, he became interested in me and we started to go out. Nothing came out of it for the first two years, until recently, when he started hanging out in my home and spending more time with me. He'd call for advice on anything, like what clothes to buy, to give me to his friends' parties, and even things like my health. Perhaps he finds me acceptable since I stay home most of the time except when my friends ask me to lunch or go shopping.

He has not made any moves to be romantic with me, and I never encouraged him. I feel I have become sort of a surrogate wife to his son and daughter. Is our relationship friendship? I try to put him down and ask what his intentions are? I almost cannot plan anything on my own anymore, because I've been at his beck and call, mostly. I like his company, but I cannot imagine myself married to him. Do you think it will be the end of this friendship if he tells me?

PIQUED INTEREST

You yourself said that you like his company except that you cannot imagine being married to him. Your be, don't move ever after that you have been at his beck and call. Don't give him ideas, being wanted by a likable companion without the responsibilities and obligations of being his wife? Aren't you having the best of both worlds?

We encounter many friends and friendships in our lifetime. We truly love many of them, but "in all honesty, could we live with some of them if we wanted to. It happens, and this friendship with your widower friend may be one of them. Enforce your non-relationship with him. Enjoy the company he provides you. Savor his need for your advice and care. He could probably get a more loving affection from a dog if he had an inkling of how you felt about him. But hey, he cannot bring a dog to parties or go drinking with his friends!

A good looking, smart lady is always a catch-up card in any setting—no matter what her feelings for the person she's with. So watch the cards and don't let it crash! Smile! Talk about being lucky.

Please send your letters to emercado@inquirer.com.ph or emercado@pdinet.com, subject: Infinite. I invite readers to my anniversary program on 6/9/12, LINGKOD, daily, 5-6 p.m., or at http://dailyom12-6-2.blogspot.com.

A 'silya' for seniors everywhere

Tito Alcala has been giving away rocking chairs to malls, restos and airport lounges for use by elderly customers

From page E1

Homegrown concept

Alcala gave priority to airports, wanting years of reminiscing and coffee shops and malls. Alcala is a Kerokero, so the first two airports to get his donated chairs were, not surprisingly, those in the cities of Naga and Legazpi.

But Alcala says the campaign is meant to be nationwide in scope. He adds: "If support lately allows, I would love this to go international. For a change, we would be exporting (an idea)—not scrapping a foreign concept. It's something Filipinos, something the holiday-up Filipino so much—the 'Filipinos' gift to the world. Not a change, instead of sending OFWs, we send Silya."

Alcala also points out: "It's pure and subtle; we are one of the few who really take care of our elderly."

As to why the chairs usually come in rattan, he says that, among other things, as elders "it is where we are comfortable. A caregiver—a child, grandchild or nurse—has he says are establishments can ask for more, although supply is run, strained by the shortage of skilled carpenters until end-users, to make the choice. In some places, square pillows are easy use.

No strings attached

The chairs are absolutely free and there are no strings attached to the accompanying donation. Any place the elderly frequent can ask for the chairs, and this could be a church and other places where they are likely to convene.

"Of course, the owner has to embrace the concept and advocacy openly. Perhaps this is the only thing I require," he says.

For will even replace or repair a damaged chair if he can to do the recipients.

But he does expect them to give the chairs proper care. He says anyone who they give their own furniture. He also requests staff to offer the seats to those who may hesitate, explaining the advocacy to they do.

Alcala withholds he has donated, so far, close to a hundred chairs. Recipients include Chelsea Gonzales and Podium, Metro Eastwood Mall; The Manor Food Camp John Hay; Brothers Burger Camp John Hay and Lucky Chinatown Mall; Mesclun, Rockwell Mall; and Mr. Jones, Greenbelt 3. Although he is not having much success getting establishments in his native Bicol to support his advocacy.

He says Legazpi's Highlands Inn shows mindset. Ayala Malls Malaki and Cebu may include a Silya fundraiser as part of their Grandparents' Day celebration.

Genuine hospitality

Recipients of Alcala's chairs seem to have caught the spirit behind the donation. At one of the establishments of the Kato, the Hospitality Group, so an elderly woman sat under rocking chair waiting for her daughter to finish a job interview. A member of the staff offered her a free glass of iced tea.

Kalmaven says, "We like it that Silya has enabled us to extend such kindness. It is a venue where genuine Pinoy hospitality can really take place."

ALCALA'S misgivings are parents inspired this advocacy.

I asked Gini having the chairs "helps humanize the group he joined Ms. Jones, Chelsea Jewelry and Bulilan, and Middle Eastwood's positions itself as a company that truly cares" and reminds everyone "that we all should respect and care for our elders."

Marlwin Star Lim, owner of Specialized Tit, says the middle has a number of elderly patrons, some escorted by children, grandchildren and/or nurses.

"We would like our elderly patrons to feel that the comfort, they feel inside our establishment extends outside while waiting for their drivers and loved ones to pick them up."

One young patron told Lim she liked sitting on the rocking chair because it reminded her of her grandmother.

Lim says they hope having the chairs outside will indicate to the elderly that they are very welcome in the establishment.

Good fit

The restaurant Nab says Silya is a good fit because the place is near residential and church areas. People go to the restaurant after Mass or to celebrate special occasions at the restaurant. Elderly patrons can be seated comfortably as they wait for a table.

The exec admits, though, that a silver has difficulty getting little kids, who appear to enjoy the chairs as much, to resist the seats to their elders. The chairs have also become popular with pregnant women and those with little children. Fish hopes to have chairs for expectant mothers...Kanya Cardin Resort and Cafe Maya Kaa in Tanay.

Power Plant Mall is also enjoying the sight of old couples claiming the chairs. Sons, daughters or spa bring their parents or grandparents to the spot or they can rest or have conversations.

The mall runs patrons appreciate having the chairs around. Having the chairs in one way to discourage elderly customers that we care for them."

Café Publico also wants guests to feel that no matter what demographic they belong to, they are welcome to "drop in to," said "so let the elderly [know] they are still very much a part of our community."

Seeing an elderly man feel comfortable enough to resume olive drinking his coffee on a rainy afternoon, says the mall, is one affirmation that it made the right decision.

More than ten places

For some patrons, the chairs are "nice" pieces, but Café Publico says it is more than anything else that the establishment is as much a place for the elderly as it is for everyone else. Using "gobo" colors also mark the chairs also stand out.

Bob Bautista Naga City is endeavored of the advocacy of a Bodabo. The very positive response the chairs were getting is the upper manager the establishment's decision to sign up for the campaign. The chairs have given people a reason to "sit back, relax a while" a meal, and not have to rush off to give seats to other patrons.

Bob Bautista, which seems to have the chairs for its Cebu branch, says young parents particularly enjoy having photos taken with their kids or dads, or both, for their Facebook pages.

With the growing number of establishments signing up to get Silya's chairs, grandparents can literally rock on their special day.

Those interested in Silya rocking chairs, or wants to refer a venue can e-mail Bautista@bernieshop.com.ph or visit www.tito-arcalashop.com.

(CLOCKWISE, from above) Chair maker prepares to put the cushion or rattan material on the seat, at the Power Plant mall, a nanny and a clerker find the rocking chairs comfortable spots on resto-lounge balcony, Cafe Publico's colored chairs match the resto's galaxy; Cafe Breton patrons enjoy their outdoor rocking chairs.

Living the Atenean ideal

A man for others—our Naga Class '62 is lucky to have him

By Bienvenido Padua
Correspondent

AS THE STRONG-ite Naga Hi Class '62 celebrates its 50th graduation anniversary as it has done all year, one class prays tribute to one member who turned out to be our brightest star and one of the school's most outstanding and most accomplished alumni.

Delatorre V. Estanilla is better known by his nickname Boro.

Boro is the person who has brought honor, glory and goodwill to his alma mater. He joins a long list of distinguished alumni who had done the same thing—the late Bunch. Boro perhaps the most notable of them all, owing to his 2006 run for the Philippine presidency. Also in the list are Supreme Chief Justice Francis Garchitorena, former Cotabato chair Ramon Felipe Jr.; former BOIE chair Ramon Diaz; Commission for Civil Law Villa Isorte; constitutionalist Joaquin Bernas, S.J. and the late Liberian Secretary Jacob Blamo Nimley.

These people had one thing in common. They were all involved in politics and public service.

But Boro is of a different mold. He feels he can contribute more to society by being a productive, caring and law-abiding citizen. He feels that the competencies of grade and courtesy, which is the basis of most politicians.

Humble beginnings

From humble beginnings in his hometown of Pili, Camarines Sur, he went to high school in Naga City and college at the Ateneo Institute of Technology. Through sheer determination and hard work, he found employment and success in the business of cargo international airfreight forwarding, as chief of AirEst Asia Inc. (AAI). He also became one of the biggest benefactors of alumni de Naga.

Even before Boro institutionalized his philanthropy in 2002 by establishing the R.V. Estanilla Foundation Inc., and registering it as a non-stock, nonprofit corporation with the Securities and Exchange Commission, he had already manifested and demonstrated his generosity to his AAI management team and employees by providing them a very competitive salary structure, a fair and objective employee performance appraisal system, and mid-year and Christmas bonuses equivalent to one month's salary every time AAI hit its targets and surpassed the bottom line.

He was also the catalyst behind the formation of an AAI Employees Multi-Purpose Cooperative, because he believed that some of the needs of AAI employees could be met through this type of organization.

And he opened a scholarship program at the Ateneo de Naga for students not deserving high school scholars, in memory of grandma Lola Isabel that he considers education be reserved from it.

By the time Boro changed the name of his foundation to AAI Charity Foundation Inc. (AACFI) in 2004, it had become the philanthropic arm of AAI, in accordance with its core value of corporate social responsibility.

He gradually expanded his charities and activities, and ever affiliated AAI with one of the country's largest association of corporate charity givers—the Philippine Business for Social Progress (PBSP).

Charitable activities

He joined its much-publicized Step-Up community improvement program in Metro Manila. He also worked for the accreditation of AACFI with the Philippine Council for NGO Certification (PCNC) to make it a legitimate corporate foundation, by BIR standards.

Boro also involved AAI in some areas in the Philippines, under the HEELPS acronym.

H stands for Health, Humanitarian Care and Housing. E is for Education, Environment and Employee Volunteerism. L stands for Livelihood. P refers to Poverty Alleviation and Public Assistance and Improvements, and S denotes Sports Support and Beautification. Some of his more memorable charitable activities under AACFI include the following:

1. Donations and distribution of emergency relief goods to victims and survivors of natural disasters and calamities;

2. Expansion of his scholarship program to private and public educational institutions in the elementary, high school and college levels;

3. Tree planting by AAI employee volunteers;

4. Organizing and supporting medical missions in Pili, Camarines Sur;

5. Donations to various parishes to fund chapel construction, renovations and facilities improvements;

6. Participation in community outreach feeding programs;

7. Participation at barangay clean-up and beautification operations and projects;

8. Christmas groceries gift giving to destitute members of different barangays;

9. Adoption and feeding of the Philippine eagle in Davao City;

10. Support for Philippine athletes and players in various sports, notably junior golfers, chess players and a champion bowler;

11. Support for different health activities, programs, projects and organizations such as the Philippine Cancer Society and the Philippine National Red Cross, financial assistance to victims of hospitalizations and medication fund support;

LUZANO "Boro" V. Estanilla

12. Establishment of 95 dwelling units in the AAI-CICE Barcelo Village and Multipurpose Hall, mainly for the informal family settlers in the area.

Special concern

Boro does not always use AACFI for his charitable works. He does not hesitate using his personal funds whenever necessary. This is particularly true when it comes to the welfare and well-being of his high school classmates are concerned.

For instance, he spearheaded the creation of a social fund exclusively for the members of Class '62. He also always hosts class lunches and dinner get-togethers and reunions.

Many of us have been the lucky beneficiaries of Boro's generosity. Tony Conde, Jimmy Dagas, Bobby Subito, Benny Agrelo, Alex Bellosa, Bernie Bautista, Ernesto Bodoano, Vic Bandong, among others.

When Boro stepped out to be Co-Corporate Communications manager of AAI and executive director of AACFI, I spent the first six years of my early senior years at AAI. And by that I was truly privileged and grateful.

Despite the noble and altruistic work he has done, Boro remains down-to-earth, approachable. He sees himself as a man steward who ought to share God's blessings.

His favorite philosophy is "God is the ultimate Giver, and I am just a humble channel of His grace."

Our Class '62 thanks him for his philanthropic heart, and we are truly proud that he has lived up to the Atenean ideal—that of being a man for others.

BRITMANIA ROCKS MANILA!

ALL HAIL THE FASHION EVENT OF THIS SEASON

LEE COOPER PREMIER LAUNCH | THE GRAND BALLROOM | MARRIOTT HOTEL | RESORTS WORLD MANILA

LEE COOPER'S MAKERS

STYLE ROYALTY @ THE SCENE

ROCKIN' BRIT STYLE HAS ARRIVED

IN THIS ISSUE
■ The new Makati high-rise that's making heads turn /C1

Sunday LIFESTYLE

MORE ON THE 'MOM-PORN' SEQUELS

More 'Fifty Shades'—it's all the same color, actually

The sex—there is just soooo much of it, and Ana is wowed at her man's 'sexpertise'

By Aliya B. Herazon

I HEALD wasn't planning on going the distance after reviewing E L James' "Fifty Shades of Grey" a few weeks ago. (*Inquirer*, Aug. 19, 2012, p.C1) However, I got curious when two intelligent men I know—a banker and a lawyer—both said they read the trilogy in one go.

Now, these six guys with a lot of other things to do with their time, but who get curious after reading reviews that were apparently a lot more interesting than the books themselves.

(Example: "This is not at all a female legalist MAM," wrote Huffington Post social justice advocate and reviewer Sheena Greene. "Had Anastasia been sexually interested in exploring her masochistic side, I would not take such issue with the book. The fact that she had zero interest in it and we goes along with it is a (literally) painful quest to win Grey's heart, is what is concerning.")

Here's more: "Small habits begin to grow," wrote Eve Williams in The Guardian. "The the way everybody always soothes, winks, smiles or whispers and nobody ever just says, the way his eyes are constantly blazing, and she is constantly biting her lip.")

My banker friend, whom we'll call Antonio, got his interest piqued enough to buy all three books in an airport, and he breezed through the trilogy on a medium-haul (yup, not even trans-Atlantic) flight in a family excursion.

"Hey, it's a page-turner, I finished all three," he insisted when I asked how far he managed.

"But do you remember the stories?"

"Well... No."

Up in the air

In case you live under a rock, "Fifty Shades of Grey" is the phenomenal bestseller about billionaire Christian Grey and student Ana Steele, who meet and begin a passionate submissive sexual relationship that, in the first book, is left up in the air—Ana doesn't know if she can take any more, even if she's falling in love.

The next book, "Fifty Shades Darker," explores the reasons Christian, the world's hottest, most eligible bachelor, is also

by his own admission, "fifty shades of f—ked up."

Somebody must have taught the author a good lesson on branding, because now Mikyn is Mrs. Desperately in this and the next volume as "Fifty" and "my Fifty Shades"—as in, "oh my poor Fifty."

Here, we meet some of the

MORE P4

My 'Phantom'-inspired pre-50 birthday bash—minus the chandelier, of course

It's September—party season has started!

AFTER WATCHING the much-awaited "The Phantom of the Opera" in Manila, I was inspired to make my pre-50 birthday party just as epic in scope—without, of course, the crashing chandelier.

But hardly anything can match "Phantom." Gala night at the Colonnade Centre of the Philippines Main Theatre was a full house, and the eye-standing performances was given a standing ovation and several curtain calls. It was truly a magical night.

Afterwards, the cast party at the Diamond Hotel was equally fab. It was wonderful to reunite with the finest African cast, many of whom we met when we flew down to Johannesburg to watch the show earlier this year. Swinger Rose champagne and an extensive wine selection complemented a delicious selection of hot and

TESSA!
Tessa Prieto-Valdes

cold buffet.

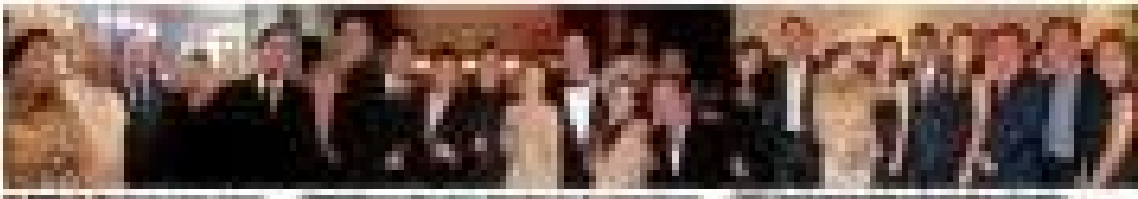
Looking so radiant was superstar Claire Lynn, who plays Christine Daae. Actors Jonathan Roxmouth as the

MY PHANTOM P3

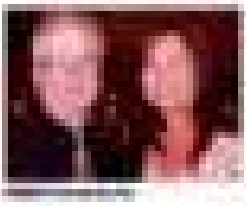
WATCH THIS SPACE.

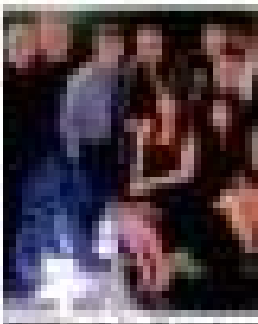
Over the coming month, the deals printed here will blow your mind, they're that good. And the offers change everyday; you'll have to act fast. So just watch this space.
You won't believe your eyes.

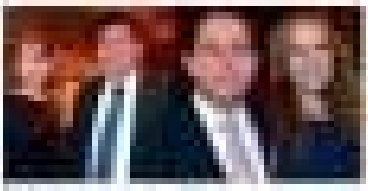
SHOPWISE

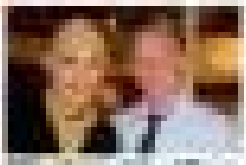


My 'Phantom'-inspired pre-50 bi
bash—minus the chandelier, of c





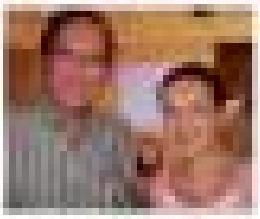


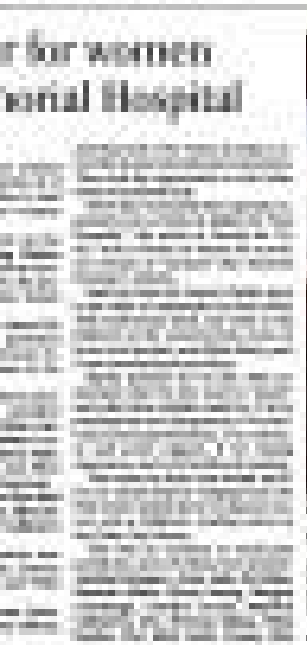


The search for the next Jollibee Ambassadors is on!

Zonta Club supports Pink Cente
and children of Vicente Sotto Me

rthday
nurse





r for women
ional Hospital

EMMANUEL and Sandy Ong | MICHAEL Jr., Sidney Po | ANGELA, Victoria, Arthur and Ethan Ong | EMILY Ong, Jessica Lee, Leah Arante, Bel Laurente

The Chevy Colorado launches in Cebu

ICOMET IT, pack tanks have always been used despite the current un-Americanization of Suburbia, and you've always secretly had a thing for pick-up trucks minus the driver with the trucker tan.

Now, Cebu's car scene has found a new darling in the all-new Chevrolet Colorado. Chevrolet Cebu president and CEO Franklyn Ding was proud to recently launch the new pick-up ("It's not just a pick-up!," he says) in the serenity corner of Ayala Center Cebu.

"What makes it so special?" was the question of the night for us, and he answered that it is built on nearly a century of Chevrolet trucking heritage, so we know that the folks at Chevrolet definitely know what they're doing.

"You can do more and be more, as it has been tested in the roughest terrains and the toughest weather conditions around the world. Not only that, the Chevrolet Colorado is engineered with the best combination of power, durability, comfort and economy in its class."

Franklyn dared us to compare the Chevy Colorado to any midsize pick-up truck out in the market today, knowing so that it is quite simply, the best in its class "in terms of power, torque and acceleration."

Haven't we always had a thing for pick-up trucks, minus the driver with the trucker tan?

Kaye G. Layno and Cybil Gayatin

SET IN CEBU

In full support was his beautiful wife Trinity and their children Victoria Belle, Angela Bella and Franzk Ethan, as well as his partners Daniel Ong, engineer Sidney Po and wife, Judge Jocelyn Pe Emmanuel and Melody Ong with their son Arthur Louis.

Jessica Lee of The Covenant Car Company Incorporated, the exclusive distributor of Chevrolet in the Philippines, flew in from Manila to grace the auspicious occasion for Cebu's car enthusiasts and friends from the media.

Classic rock and blues

Hosting the event was ABS-CBN's Phoebe Xiane Fernandez and bringing out the all-American heritage of Chevrolet was Gilbert Isett classic rock and blues band, Chevrolets, injecting some acoustic rhythm with slow tempo blues for their first set, then upping the energy level on their second set with some Stevie Ray Vaughan and ZZ Top.

Vocalist Kipat Trullo may physically resemble Jelly but his intense performance in her trademark cowboy hat Dave does so much power come out from such a tiny girl! It, as was the rest of the band with Art Jumlaoud (Army Trullo) and Arnold Ang on lead guitar, Lyndon Bautista on bass guitar and Joel Jerena on the drums.

We indulged in American grub like mini burgers and hotdogs in easy-to-eat sizes and really cute mini pretzel bowls for seconds of the old-fashioned mac and cheese. Of course, in true American style, we washed it all down with ice cold beer.

EMMANUEL and Melody Ong, Emily and Franklyn Ding, Daniel Ong, Jocelyn and Sidney Po

ABS-CBN's Phoebe Fernandez | THE BAND Casanova in action

Cheers to an amazing weekend:

Grab the best iPhone deals from Globe and get an iPhone for free for as low as Plan 999

Get nothing to do this weekend and looking for an amazing experience as a #GlobeFanatic? Head off to the Globe Store in SM Megamall on September 8 and 9 to get the most amazing offers on the most amazing phones only from Globe.

This weekend, savor over the hard deals for the iPhone 3GS 8GB, iPhone 4, and iPhone 4S from Globe. Get the iPhone 3GS for free at Plan 999* with unlimited calls during each time (1) basis, from the original Plan 999 with iTV. Discount out.

The iPhone 4 16GB or 32GB are yours for free at Plan 1799 complete with unlimited mobile surfing, FREE voice calls and text to Globe and Touch 10 landlines, while the iPhone 4S 16GB is available at P1,399* per month at Plan 1799 with 4 GB bucket-out for 24 months, also bundled with unlimited mobile browsing, FREE monthly consumables, and three (3) free texts. Both the iPhone 4 and iPhone 4S offers are also available in Globe Stores nationwide while supplies last.

Another freebies to choose from are 15 minutes of calls and 300 texts to Globe and TM, 5 minutes of calls and 20 texts to other networks, 10 minutes of IDD calls and 10 IDD texts, 10MB of mobile surfing, and unlimited calls and text to 1 Globe or TM number. Plus, you can share your Globe credits with your friends and family with Globe Share, and enjoy more unlimited services such as unlimited calls/chat to 1 Globe or TM number for P113, unlimited text to Globe/TM for P113, unlimited Call to Landline for Public Calls for SUPERSIZE for P588, unlimited text to all networks for P588, unlimited text and call to Globe and TM for P1599, unlimited mobile internet for P588, and 100MB of mobile internet for P98 - all valid for 30 days.

Heads up, don't forget to bring your filled-up application form, identification cards, proof of billing address, and proof of financial capacity if you are a new subscriber. These exclusive offers are also up for grabs for re-connecting subscribers (Globe postpaid numbers, active for the Globe Store in the #6 Zobel-Jone-Ayala Building B in SM Megamall. In the future, you can always check out these awesome deals at Globe Store nationwide.

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With these amazing offers, now is really the best time to get an iPhone from Globe. Our strong partnership with Apple versus other telcos in our capacities in carrying the complete suite of iPhone devices and pairing them with our innovative roster of postpaid plans under My Plan, Share, and Super Plan gives our subscribers the flexibility to design their postpaid plans by choosing the best possible mix of call, text and browsing services that they need, and manage them on other monthly bills a month/s has that's within their reach, and choose the devices that best suit their lifestyles and get them either for free or at a minimum cash-out, giving My Super Plan the ultimate edge over other postpaid plans claiming to provide value to their subscribers," said Aleritha Dayon, Head of Globe Postpaid.

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More 'Fifty Shades'—it's all the same . . .

Pretentiously Pt

characters responsible for creating those 50 shades, from Christian's psycho bestie-cum-submissive Leila to the enigmatic Mrs. Robinson (more on her, also, later).

The final book, "Fifty Shades Forever," starts decently enough. They're honeymooning in the Mediterranean, and Ana is starting at "my hot, beautiful husband." Then the book takes a weak James Bond turn with its unswerving of car chases, kidnappings, bombings and threats (no, I'm not telling about the rest yet, silly!).

For the fourth (millions of) time, according to the latest sales figures), James graciously chews it into bonus chapters to reveal more "Shades of Grahman," told from his point of view. "Fifty Fast Grahmans," when the child is mostly there to give some daddy and mommy, the rich and beautiful Carrick and Grace Trevelyan-Grey, and "More Fifty Shades," when he first encounters Ana.

Why you should read them

In the interest of journalism, let me break that down as objectively as I can. This is why you should read these books.

1) The sex. There is just enough meat of it. They're doing it everywhere, and in Vivaldi, "where they're not supposed to," complete with safety sex, bath robe, parking garages, on Christmas piano, in his private place, in his private boat, and more, now that they're official. She's tamed as her manic "orgasmic" (yes, that's the word she uses), and she actually enjoys it now.

I mean, when Ana states that her "sex" is sore (!), you feel for the poor girl. Christian is ready to go at the drop of a hat or a hint of Ana's knee hip. (Maybe that's why it's fetish.)

2) The romance. Together after all this, you've been swooning all along, you will get your happy ending. Instead your wildest dreams. You have those ads for real estate, or downpants or even memorial parks, where they're romping through grassy fields with purpose. All romping no sex? You get my drift.

Yes, they're saying "I love you" a lot by the second book. (Ana moves his family has employees, his cook, even his (gasp!) psychiatrist, who are really documents Christian's issues with her. Swoon—but isn't that, uh, unethical?

3) The characters, plot, writing. **It is retarded, it's reception, strangle, and doesn't give you a headache** when you try to understand it. Christian is gorgeous and dark, Ana is cute. They have tons of money and lots of sex. He used to punish any supervisors of the universe here; I think his Grooms was working way too hard trying to figure this out.

Why you shouldn't

Okay now here is why you shouldn't read these books:

1) The sex and romance. Yes, Christian goes a bit vanilla—so literally, he's scooping vanilla ice cream on Ana and licking it off her. There's more sex here than book one, but it becomes so predictable that you end up skipping pages (leaving just enough for a Hong Kong-Manila flight, maybe Amsterdam).

His eyes darken (see mode: she passes a lot excessively, and you know how he his "Sinky Finny". When they're not having sex, they're having a fight—not enough variety, really, for two books. A journalist friend actually dozoned that from Mills and Boone to Sweet Valley High, and I tend to agree.

At the beginning of book two, five days into their short break-up, Ana laments, "How long will this Mobsta crap be hitting feeling last? I am in purgatory" I feel you, girl. Bestie.

3) The characters, plus flatness the sex carries, and you may just have enough reading for a flight to Cebu, actually. Christian is so ridiculously rich, he buys everything and everybody. He's also so jealous, he buys the first dinner outta his bankrolls for $10,000—it's clear he's anemone no nobody can get his hands on but.

Pleasantly, his eyes darkens each time, I'm beginning to think he's got dimmers in his head.) Ana isn't soon to decide if she's enjoying the money or swooning it.

One-dimensional

But just when you're thinking that the villains characterizes the ends will make life a little harder for the poor woman caught, they become terribly one-dimensional.

I had particularly high hopes for Mrs. Robinson, aka Elena Lincoln, the woman who both saves and scars Christian Grey, because she could have been a delicious gold mine of human complexities. Instead, there's a series of soap opera-esque confrontations, complete with slaps and tears, that would fit right into Pinoy primetime TV.

And you know how young journalist literature likes to call such chapters with a cliffhanger? The end of the second book makes such a lame attempt in desperation she would be arrogantist, it's painful.

3) The writing. We already know E.L. James ain't Simone de Beauvoir. She knows this. Thus Wesley's "His description of economic society halves to "Brothers of the Brothers" when Ana complains that she wants to keep watching because she doesn't want to become a "vacuous sexual creep."

But, ladies and gentlemen, there are actually typos in these books. Typographical errors. As in, somebody at Vintage Books (a division of Random House) was paid up to thirty times to proofread this, and gems like "Why do you say it that like that?" (top of page 122), "Fifty Shades Darker") still made it through.

Maybe I'm splitting hairs, but come on, people. We've got four million copies of sloppy English running around, and that's not including the world as, that's ouchy.

Here's the worst part. At the end of her home chapters in "Fifty Shades Freed"—by the way, Christian sounds like a thug when he's telling the story from his point of view—James writes, quite smugly, about book one's, "That's all. for now. Thank you, thank you, thank you for reading."

It's a thinly veiled threat that, yes, there will be more.

As Ana herself would say holy crap.

E L James' "Fifty Shades of Grey," "Fifty Shades" and "Fifty Shades Freed" are available at National Book Store.

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Emmie G. Velarde

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Textnet pass feedback: inquirer.net/servlet/girly?message to 4467

HEARD

Universal appeal

ON FRIDAY night, filmmaker Jose Javier Reyes posted an urgent appeal to fellow passers on Twitter: "Going into deep cosmic meditations as I have a 6/55 Lotto set-it and out right in front of me, asking this Universe: 'Gimme the dig-its?'" **Boyet Sin Diego Jr.**

Cheers for Brillante-Nora film in Venice

ON THE red carpet: The director and his lead star were greeted by Filipino fans based in Europe.

Critics say superstar is 'immense, expressive, engaging'

By Boyet Sin Diego Jr.

IN HER hot pink saree, petite singer-actress Nora Aunor stood tall on the theater-red carpet following the long, hearty applause and positive reviews for film "Thy Womb" received after its screening on Thursday.

Aunor, lead star of the country's best entry in the main competition of the recently concluded 69th Venice International Film Festival, was even cited by one critic as a serious contender in the best actress race.

According to producer Larry Castillo, the film was given "a standing ovation that lasted until the entire Philippine delegation left the cinema."

"It was overwhelming," he told the Inquirer via SMS.

Critic Neil Young, who writes for The Hollywood Reporter, considered Aunor a best actress contender. His other best actress lineup: Israeli's Hadas Yaron and Chilean Antonia Zegers in "Till the Wild Boar"; fourth Rooney Mara ("Pietà"), Germany's Franziska Petri ("Jerome"), and France's Isabelle Huppert ("Bella Addormentata").

Young pointed out Tuesday: "Rose Ayreen Sibal stuck more competitive with 'Kidlat's Fiesta & Shelly are bunch. That Jo Shin-soo, Fumiaska Petri, Hara Asano, Huppert."

In Hollywood Reporter, Young gave "Thy Womb" a mixed review, but praised the acting, production design and cinematography.

Said Young of Aunor: "Her silks flowers, as somewhat expressive of both happiness and sorrow, help make Shahela an engaging, unlikely heroine."

In "Thy Womb," Aunor plays Shahela, a barren midwife who considers for a woman (Lovi Poe) who can bear a child for her husband (Bernhal Rose).

Young wrote: "Blinding serenity and a

CHEERS B2

TEAM Philippines (from left): Lovi Poe, Mercedes Cabral, Nora Aunor and Brillante Mendoza.

A7

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OPENS SEPTEMBER 5

G-PLUS

Gay celeb smitten with security guard

By the Entertainment Staff

GAY CELEB was a regular visitor of Cubao's Araneta Plaza, who lives in a posh compound. GC had been smitten with the security guard on GC's subdivision.

The object of GC's affection is quite discreet in revealing his name. In spite of GC's promises, the guy remained elusive. GC was perplexed, he usually got his way with prospects.

Twice out, the guard in cautious because GC has a rep for being chatty. Plus, the hunk is afraid that GC might show a video of their intimate moments—if ever. After all, GC's friends hubby, CE, earlier caused quite a stir that way. As they say, "Hindi ei a brother..."

Part-time

Perhaps Mexican Actor thought Show bit Newcomer was a decoration. He told CE, "There's no need to go. Your personal me is there because I'm the better performer."

Dumbfied, CE shrugged off the bullying. During a mall break, Chameleon Actress dropped by to visit some-one insidious. CE hugged GH upon seeing the "enemy." He was perplexed.

Later, to publicist GH made sure to ask what that was about. GH quipped casually, "She is one of the most respected thespians in the theater world." Or was damned speechless.

Track record

Penny Jender has an unanswered resolution. A year ago PS is a notorious flirt and has succeeded in hooking up with almost everyone she's been paired-off with/dated.

It's not a perfect record. PS failed to win Cris Rudd's heart. Turned out, CR was just an old friend to boot as PS.

Caught in the act

Paddy pays and sexy gab thrive at a wild party at a village country club.

COCO Martin

Charlene Neighbor, a close bi-sexpirate, made the mistake of pointing by the shower occurrencing Hunky-porter in a compromising position with an unnamed guy from the same studio-the where-GH-and-HR work.

Embarrassed, CN rushed out of the premises. After the party, RS cornered CN, pleading with CN to remain mum about the indiscretion. He admitted that he was entitled to get advances, but that he didn't go all the way. Yikes, too much information!

Pops de jour

Handsome Hunk had a string of gay lovers, including ballroom Gay and Gigolo Actor.

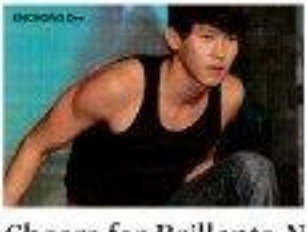
HH has since swartvered and chosen to play with the other team. As luck would have it, HH knocked up a clueless girlfriend. He will now become a born-fide Papa.

Top of Bandera

The top show biz news, in the business talked theaters and

VICE Ganda

HEART Evangelista



THE POSSESSION
True demonic story is #1 movie in America.

Based on a true story that was published by the Los Angeles Times, "The Possession" easily took home prize with some of the best debuts ever for the holiday. "The Possession" scored a up an estimated $67.7 Million from 2,816 locations in its first three days to Theater Day[3] - Sept. 2[3].

Movie top critic Roger Ebert gave it a "two thumbs up" and has this to say:

"All of this unfolds as a plausible narrative and doesn't depend on a young girl's hysteria or ingenuity between her parents final comes bored. It is just as it's billed: A demon has inspired in fact by an actual box described to a well known article published in the Los Angeles Times. Whether she and they created the phenomenon on display in the film I somehow doubt, but I don't want to open it in order to find out.

"The Exorcist" has influenced a lot of films, and this is one of the better ones." -Roger Ebert

"THE POSSESSION" is now showing nationwide on its 2nd blockbuster week!

RSEN P · R · A · T · E · D[13] STRONGLY FOR 13 YEARS OF AGE AND UP

Cheers for Brillante-Nora . . .

From page 61

sympathetic lead performance help elevate all movie to higher level, underdeveloped slice of Philippine ethnic drama."

In interview, Ebert described Mendoza as a "solid craftsman and his films as "hand-made."

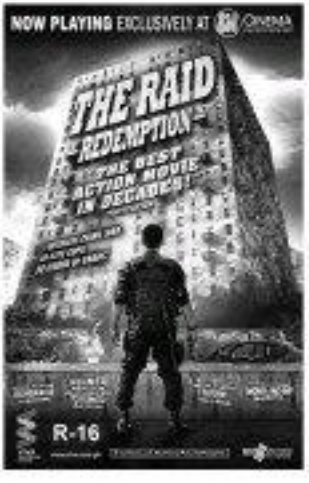
It evokes us this an website Silver Screen Awards Actor Actress as "im-mense."

Red carpet

The supreme dame o Filipino designers for her red carpet debut—much like her campaign co-chairs Lea Puz and Mrs. Cesar Drilon.

Before flying to Tokyo, Actor told the newspaper that her Sexy-traditional Filipiniana dress was designed by Sonia Palmos. Puz's black gown was by Cary Santiago and Gilbert's flash dress by Mark Dimasaka.

Sexbot Kat Cruz had to watch Puz how to use the trousers so that her gowns would look their best in Italy. The stars didn't



MEGAWORLD Lifestyle Malls ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

NEWPORT CINEMAS
1 The Possession 9:10pm • 11:30pm 1:50pm • 4:20pm • 6:50pm • 9:20pm
The Campaign 7:00pm • 9:30pm • 11:40pm
2 The Watch 9:00am • 11:15am • 1:50pm 4:40pm • 7:40pm • 10:20pm
One Mile Above (Chinese Movie Festival) 9:00am • 11:20am • 1:40pm
3 Captive 4:00pm • 6:30pm 9:00pm • 11:30pm
4 Katy Perry: Part of Me 9:30am • 11:40am 1:50pm • 4:30pm
Amorosa 7:25pm • 10:05pm • 12:50am
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1 I Do Bidoo Bidoo 2:30pm • 5:10pm 7:50pm • 10:30pm
2 The Expendables 2D 1:00pm • 3:10pm • 5:20pm
The Campaign 3D 7:30pm • 10:00pm
3 The Watch 12:30pm • 5:10pm • 5:50pm 8:30pm • 11:10pm
4 The Possession 3:05pm • 5:30pm 8:05pm • 10:35pm
5 The Campaign 1:00pm • 3:20pm • 5:50pm 8:15pm • 10:40pm
6 Total Recall in 2D 12:40pm • 3:10pm • 5:40pm
The Watch 2D 8:10pm • 10:20pm
7 The Watch 2:00pm • 3:10pm 7:40pm • 10:30pm

Lucky Chinatown CINEMAS
1 The Watch 10:00am • 11:10am • 2:00pm 4:20pm • 6:30pm • 8:50pm
2 The Possession in 2D 10:30am • 12:00pm • 2:00pm 4:00pm • 6:00pm • 8:00pm 10:00pm
3 Captive 2D 10:30am • 1:00pm • 3:30pm The Expendables 2D 8:00am • 6:00pm 10:00pm
4 Amorosa 10:15am • 12:35pm 2:55pm • 5:15pm 7:35pm • 10:00pm
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ENTERTAINMENT

GETTING READY FOR THE "BER" MONTHS

PHILIPPINES– The traffic jams, the mall-wide sales, and the long lines to the cashier. It's official. The "ber" months are the start of the holiday

TIP 1: Stay warm – This is the only time you won't be judged a "wairdo" for wearing those thick, furry jackets! Take advantage of the chilly climate.

disaster! So, here are some tips to make sure you'd still be looking chic and fab all throughout the holidays.

ready now? Remember these simple reminders, put on your warmest smile and you're good to go.

Sax talk with Michael Paulo

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD

Aubrey T. Sapalo

LOS ANGELES—Al Jarreau first spotted Filipino-American saxophonist **Michael Paulo** jumping on drums while playing Kuala Lumpur's clubs. Jarreau remembered Michael's energetic act when the acclaimed jazz singer later hired Michael to join his touring band.

Michael is such a kinetic performer that he once ripped his pants onstage. "I wasn't mindless videos, but that was it," he said in our e-mail interview "Just once. I've been pretty careful since then."

These days, the Stockton-born Michael Alfonso is a lot more accomplished. At the recent "Summerdrive 2012" concert in LA, he wowed the crowd with his sensational playing, showmanship and charismatic stage presence.

The sax player—who has played with virtually the "who's who" in jazz's various pronunciations—has his own string of albums.

Michael is also the event producer of Hawaii's Pacific Rim Jazz Festival, which is now on its third year. On Nov. 3, he is presenting an array of artists, from **Boni Tiwanan** and the Pilipinglish, **Dominic Milliares** to **Rick Braun**, in a day-long festival at the Hawaii Convention Center which raises scholarships for deserving musicians in the island US state.

Said Michael: "**Last Shenkenhein** also singing. She is a good vocalist and performer. My father (pianist **Rene Paulo Sr.**) will perform, too!"

More information about the festival, which offers travel packages, is available on www.pacificrimjazzfestival.com.

Below are excerpts from our interview:

You endeavour and that smile while you're performing onstage always savor the audience. Where does that inner joy come from?

I smile because I truly enjoy what I do on the moment. I enjoy and love playing music. That is why I pursued it in the first place. Never for fame, money or success. For me, performing is my peace and escape from all the business and work that go with promoting concerts.

What were the highlights when you were on tour with Al Jarreau? Were you with him at his recent concert in the Philippines?

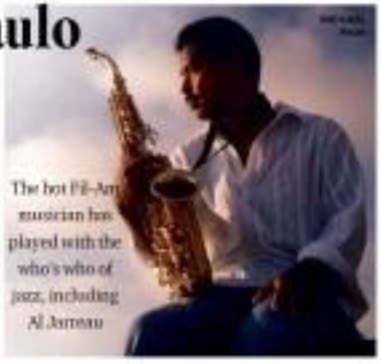
When I first toured with Jarreau, the first place we went to was Europe. I had never been (there) before and what a way to go. First class all the way with a jazz superstar! We traveled all over Spain, Germany, France, Italy, Austria, Switzerland and England. Man, was I lucky.

The largest number of people I've ever performed for was over 30,000 at "Rock in Rio." That was with Al. It was a huge festival that lasted two weeks with great artists from rock, R&B, jazz, heavy metal, etc. The stage was so huge that there was room for a whole other (concert) for George Benson, Rod Stewart and Whitesnake as some of the artists who were there.

I finally made it to Manila with Al after having been close with **James Ingram** twice. I also performed with **Pauline Wilson** in Manila back in the 1990s. I am returning in October with **David Benoit**.

As a musician, you've performed with a virtual who's who of artists. Who among these talents stand out in your memory to this day?

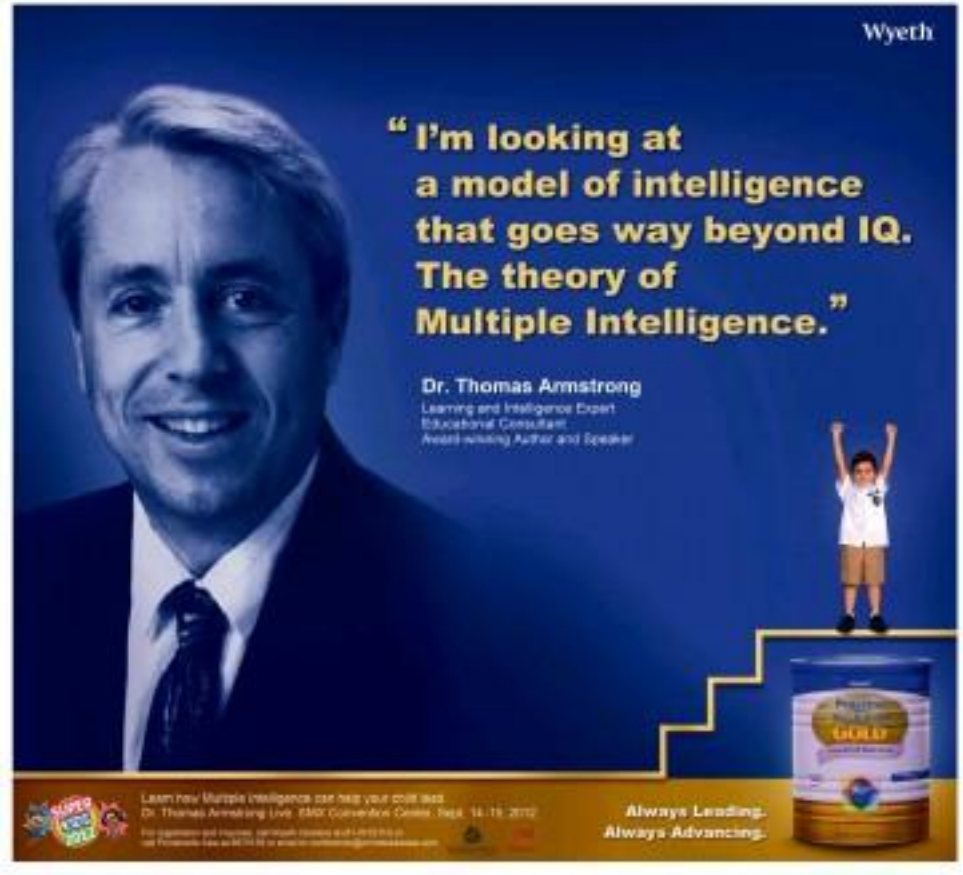
Al Jarreau, of course. And also James Ingram, **Bobby Caldwell**, **Dokt Antebi**, Deniece Williams, **David Sanborn**, Gerry Adams and Harvey Mason. I grew up listening to these artists, so to be able to play with them later in life was incredible. I also got to meet Chick Corea and Grover Washington, and play with **Miles Davis**.



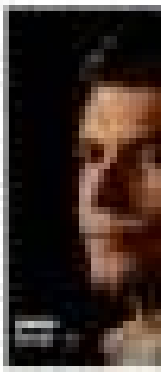
Any music is very sexy. What was the compliest experience you've had while you performing onstage?

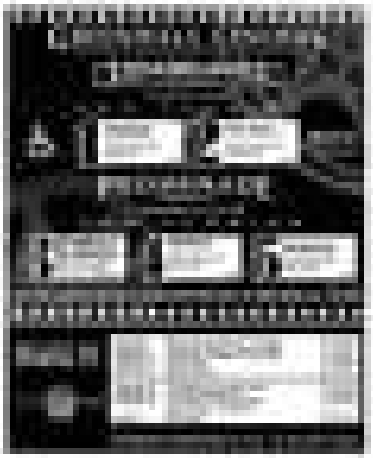
I guess the date when I was playing

SOURCE

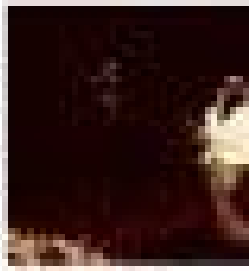


Jaime Camil hits MIC for 'Jaja,' 'Chuchin' showdown





Sax talk with Michael...



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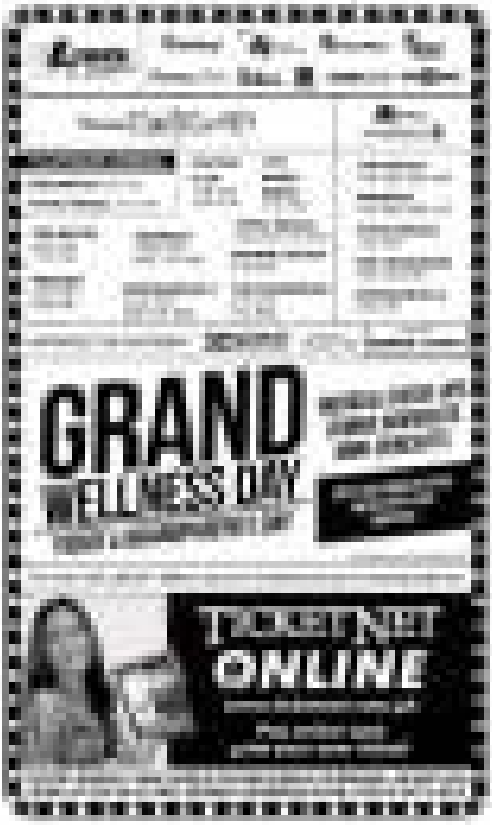
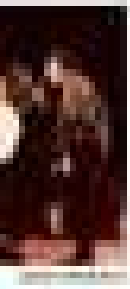
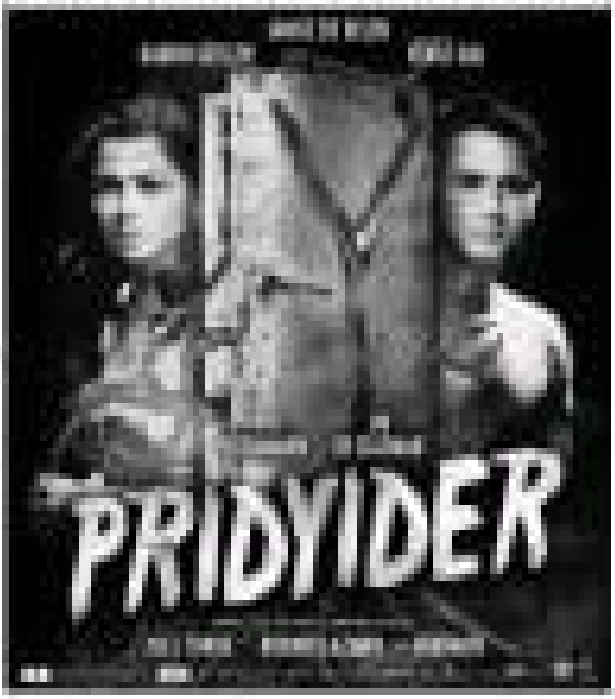




POWER PLANT

SHANG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THE DRESS she wore to the 2010 MTV Video Music Awards (in photo) is Lady Gaga as she exits the press room after winning eight trophies (last night) has been dried, preserved and painted to restore its original raw-meat color.

Gaga's meat dress goes to Washington

WASHINGTON—Lady Gaga's famous meat dress has made its way to the United States capitol, along with Loretta Lynn's song about "The Pill" and other relics from music history.

The Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in Cleveland has launched a national tour for an exhibit about pioneering women on the rock 'n' roll, tracing the evolution of women artists and their impact on music. It opened on Friday at the National Museum of Women in the Arts.

Rock as politics

Curator Meredith Ruthledge-Borger told The Associated Press that the exhibit, "Women Who Rock: Visions, Desires, Power," is inherently political in part, as it highlights many "fine ladies who have spoken loud and clear on women's rights, gay rights and other issues through their music.

"That really is the center of our political life," Ruthledge-Borger said during the Washington opening. "Bringing this exhibit here, that kind of rebellious what's important in our history and political life...at a time when there's talk of women being under attack in politics."

More than 200 artifacts represent 70 women who wear "registers of change and creativity," she said, each helping to redefine rules could make rock 'n' roll. It features items from Cher, the B-52s, Donna Summer, Stevie Nicks, Janell Cooper and Madonna's personality—such from her "Blonde Ambition" tour. Other items date back to jazz singer Billie Holiday, first blues recording artists Bessie Smith and Ma Rainey, and country music trailblazer Maddie Stapbella Carter.

Lynn's country song, "The Pill," was considered so controversial in 1975 that fast record label delayed its release by three years. Lynn later recounted on that decision told her the song was pivotal in rural assumptions of birth control.

"We really wanted to make sure this wasn't just a fashion dress," Ruthledge-Borger said. "We wanted to showcase these artists as musicians."

For the National Museum of Women in the Arts, it is the first exhibit to feature women performing artists, said chief curator Kathryn Nas.

Gaga's dress from the 2010 MTV Video Music Awards... now dried, preserved and painted to restore its original raw-meat color—is being shown to its political context.

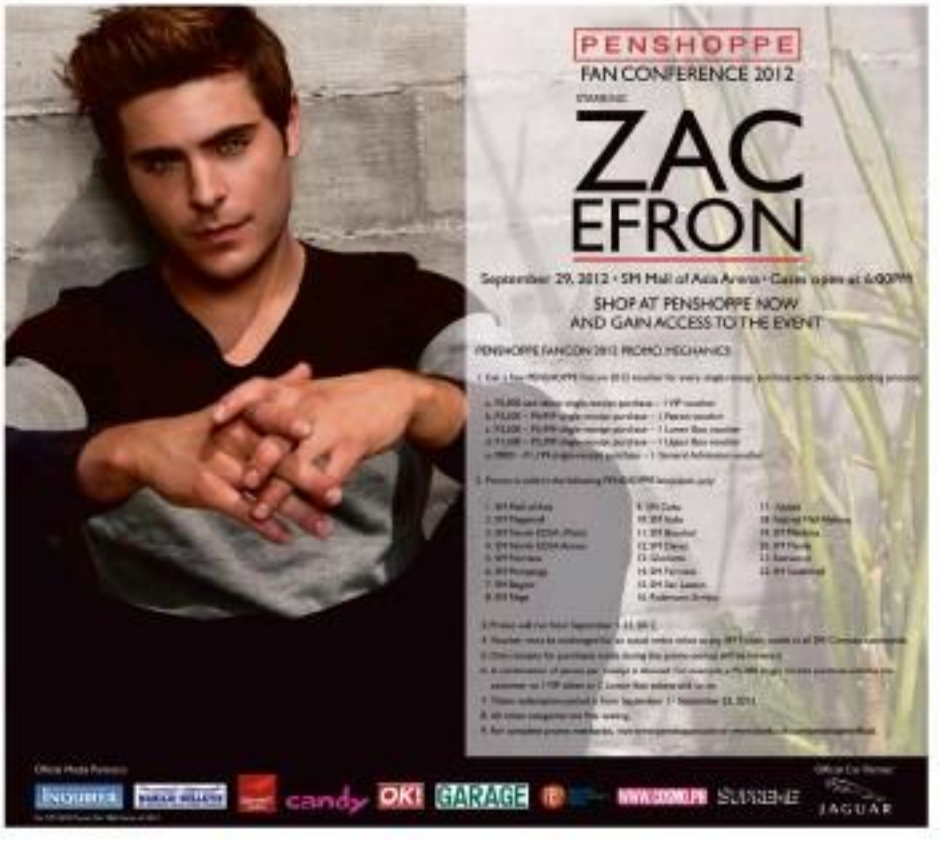
When Gaga wore the dress, she was accompanied by LGBT... dress inspired by the "don't ask, don't tell" policy to prevent the ban on gays serving openly in the military. She explained that if people don't stand up for their rights, "pretty soon we're going to have so much rights as the meat on our own bones. And, I am not a piece of meat."

Beyond shock value

Beyond the dress' shock value, Gaga's push for inclusion of gays or anyone else who is different helped cement her place as a pioneer, said Ruthledge-Borger.

"If you dig a little deeper, there's this important message of inclusion and loyalty," she said. "That to me is really why she's so powerful."

"Women Who Rock" will remain on view in Washington through Jan. 6. Then it will travel to Orlando, Nebraska, Seattle and Phoenix. AP



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CRS

Catholic Relief Services (CRS), is an American relief and development NGO, created in 1943 by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops to assist the poor and disadvantaged overseas, with programs in over 90 countries. Present in Philippines since 1945, CRS' mission statement calls on the agency to alleviate human suffering, advance integral human development, and foster charity and justice in the world. As it is programs assist persons in the basis of need, regardless of religion, ethnicity or nationality. CRS / Philippine Program currently has seven projects in agriculture, natural resource management, peace and reconciliation, and emergency response. Our offices are located in Manila, Davao, and Cagayan de Oro. CRS offers competitive salary and benefits packages.

JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

CRS/Philippine Program is seeking experienced and dynamic individuals with the following general qualifications:

- Excellent communication skills (oral and written) in English, especially report writing
- Experience working around or in rural disadvantaged areas
- Able to be flexible, active listening, complex problem solving, critical thinking, service orientation, systems evaluation, judgment and decision making, monitoring
- Technology: Microsoft Office 2003/2007
- Knowledge: Customer management and client negotiations

EMERGENCY WASH PROGRAM OFFICER (MANILA)

This position will provide operational and technical support during emergency water/sanitation/hygiene response during disasters. Position requires up to 50% travel with ability to deploy rapidly to emergency field settings.

- Bachelor's Degree in Social Work, Public Health, or Sanitation, preference for Masters degree
- Minimum of three (3) years experience working with NGO or government agencies in planning and implementation of emergency response, disaster risk reduction, and/or development work
- Provide coordination in hygiene promotion, information/communication for hygiene, water supply management, and WASH needs assessments
- Ability to work with stakeholders in multiple levels including local government organizations, donors, media groups, religious groups, Catholic Church, etc.), and government units
- Strong analytical, developing organizational, critical capacity, creating conceptual, complex thinking, monitoring and coaching
- Excellent written proficiency, reporting, and communication skills will be
- Working knowledge of Ilonggo essential

EMERGENCY RESPONSE OFFICER (MANILA)

This position will provide operational support during emergency response during disasters throughout the country for CRS and local partner organizations. Position requires up to 50% travel with ability to deploy rapidly to emergency field settings.

- Minimum of three (3) years experience working with NGO or government agencies in planning and budgeting
- Bachelor's Degree in Social Work, Public Health, or Sanitation
- Implementation Emergency response, disaster risk reduction, training experience desired
- Ability to work with stakeholders in multiple levels including local government organizations, donors, media groups, religious groups, Catholic Church, etc.), and government units
- Strong ability in developing organizational capacities including institutional strengthening, monitoring and coaching

MONITORING & EVALUATION OFFICER – PEACE GOVERNANCE IN MINDANAO (DAVAO)

DEPUTY PROGRAM MANAGER – PEACE GOVERNANCE IN MINDANAO (DAVAO)

The Deputy Program Manager will assist the Program Manager in overseeing the implementation of the Peace Governance in Mindanao (PGM) Project. S/he will provide effective and efficient technical, project management & support services, engage with project stakeholders to ensure project deliverables, and directly support the development, management and reporting of project/activity portfolio. The position requires up to 50% travel to conflict and disaster affected areas.

- Bachelor's degree in Social Sciences, Development Studies, Political Science, Public Administration or related degree
- At least 5 years experience working with NGOs, the Church, or government agencies in planning/coordinating and project/activity level
- At least 3 years experience in management capacity, including planning and reporting, with strong writing skills. Strong analytical skills, and excellent oral and quantitative information generation and communication capabilities
- Ability to work with stakeholders in multiple levels including local government (donors, media, and religious groups (Catholic church, etc.), indigenous tribal communities, ethic groups/civil communities, and government units
- Strong skills in developing organizational capacities including institutional strengthening, monitoring and coaching

TRAINING SPECIALIST – PEACE GOVERNANCE IN MINDANAO PROJECT (DAVAO)

The Training Specialist will coordinate and implement the training components under the Peace Governance in Mindanao (PGM) project, with lead the development, implementation, management, documentation, and packaging of public training plans and programs, including the Grassroots Peace Learning Center (GPLC). S/he will also support partners in strengthening their respective training agendas and capabilities. S/he would be required:

- Bachelor's degree, preferably in the social sciences or other field related to adult education, or relative degree preferred
- 3-5 years experience with NGOs and society, or government in designing and implementing training programs
- Strong knowledge of adult education / training including training needs assessments, training design, training delivery, training methodologies, and materials
- Strong communication skills, proactive abilities in organizing events and developing short training programs
- Ability to work with stakeholders in multiple levels including NGOs, the media, religious groups (Catholic church, etc.), and government agencies

Interested candidates should send their curriculum vitae and cover letter, in English before September 14, 2012 to: ph_hr@global.crs.org
Please note the position title in your subject line.

QUEZON I ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

Brgy. Poctol, Pitogo, Quezon
Telefax No. (042) 3188196
Email address: quezelec1@yahoo.com

NOTICE OF VACANCIES

POSITION	JOB SPECIFICATION/REQUIREMENTS
AREA MANAGER	- Graduate of Bachelor's Degree in Engineering, Business Administration or Accountancy - With at least five (5) years supervisory experience in the electric cooperative or private electric utility - Must have thorough knowledge of electric cooperative policies, rules and regulations, management principles and practices - Must be physically fit and willing to render overtime work
SYSTEMS MAINTENANCE HEAD	- Graduate of Bachelor's Degree in Engineering - With at least five (5) years supervisory experience in the field of operation - Must have thorough knowledge of electric cooperative policies, rules and regulations, management principles and practices - Must be physically fit and willing to render overtime work
PLANNING & DESIGN HEAD	- Graduate of Bachelor's Degree in Engineering - With at least five (5) years supervisory experience in the field of operation - Must have thorough knowledge of electric cooperative policies, rules and regulations, management principles and practices - Must be physically fit and willing to render overtime work
MEMBER DEVELOPMENT & CONSUMER'S ASSISTANCE SUPERVISOR	- Graduate of College - With at least one (1) year supervisory experience in the field of operation - Must have thorough knowledge of electric cooperative policies, rules and regulations, management principles and practices - Must be physically fit and willing to render overtime work
CONSUMER ACCOUNTS SUPERVISOR	- Graduate of College - With at least one (1) year supervisory experience in the field of operation - Must have thorough knowledge of electric cooperative policies, rules and regulations, management principles and practices - Must be physically fit and willing to render overtime work
TECHNICAL ASSISTOR	- Graduate of College - With at least one (1) year supervisory experience in the field of operation - Must have thorough knowledge of electric cooperative policies, rules and regulations, management principles and practices - Must be physically fit and willing to render overtime work
MEMBER DEVELOPMENT & TRAINING OFFICER	- Graduate of College - With at least one (1) year supervisory experience in the field of operation - Must have thorough knowledge of electric cooperative policies, rules and regulations, management principles and practices - Must be physically fit and willing to render overtime work
FINANCE MANAGER	- Graduate of College - With at least one (1) year supervisory experience in the field of operation - Must have thorough knowledge of electric cooperative policies, rules and regulations, management principles and practices - Must be physically fit and willing to render overtime work
ENGINEERING MANAGER	- Graduate of College - With at least one (1) year supervisory experience in the field of operation - Must have thorough knowledge of electric cooperative policies, rules and regulations, management principles and practices - Must be physically fit and willing to render overtime work
CONSUMER ACCOUNTS MANAGER	- Graduate of College - With at least one (1) year supervisory experience in the field of operation - Must have thorough knowledge of electric cooperative policies, rules and regulations, management principles and practices - Must be physically fit and willing to render overtime work

Interested applicants may submit their resume and related credentials to the General Manager thru the Administrative Manager on or before **September 30, 2012**.

HERMES J. AVILLO
Officer-in-Charge

DAI

CALL FOR RESUMES:
Facilitating Public Investment Program opportunity

DAI is an employee-owned global development company. For 40 years, we have worked on the frontlines of international development, tackling fundamental social and economic development problems caused by inefficient markets, ineffective governments, and instability. Currently, DAI is delivering results that matter in some 60 countries. Our integrated development solutions turn ideas into impact by bringing together fresh combinations of expertise and innovation across multiple disciplines—crisis mitigation and stability operations, democratic governance and public sector management, agriculture and agribusiness, private sector development and financial services, economics and trade, HIV/AIDS and disease control, water and natural resources management, and energy and climate change. Our clients include international development agencies, international lending institutions, private corporations and philanthropies, and national governments.

DAI seeks candidates for an anticipated multi-year US Agency for International Development (USAID)-funded program in the Philippines. The Facilitating Public Investment (FPI) program will work with the Government of the Philippines (GPH) in addressing the tax inefficiencies; the program will support measures to increase the tax effort, and promote greater transparency and accountability in public expenditures in order to assist the GPH implement fiscal and budgetary reforms to facilitate public investments. This program will cover both tax and non-tax components, as well as public expenditures.

DAI seeks candidates for long- and short-term positions under the program with the following areas of expertise:

- Tax administration, audit, collection, organization;
- Macroeconomic modeling, revenue administration;
- Strategic planning:
  - Business processes, streamlining
  - Organizational development
- Training and capacity development;
- Public, Private Partnerships (PPP);
- Macroeconomic project analysis (cost-benefit analysis);
- Fiscal policy and public financial management;
- Public sector accounting;
- Public sector treasury operations;
- Management information systems (MIS);
- Public policy and public administration;
- Monitoring and Evaluation; and reporting;
- Communications and Strategic Public Outreach;

Candidates with credentials in the technical areas mentioned above are strongly encouraged to apply. DAI is also seeking candidates with strong experience in USAID program administration, operations and financial management, accounting and procurement.

Competency in English required, written and spoken fluency preferred.

All positions on the program will be contingent upon DAI being awarded the contract, and USAID approving the proposed candidates.

Please send your CV and letter of interest to PhilippinesITA@dai.com and note "Call For Resumes-FPI" in the subject line by September 15, 2012. Only short-listed candidates will be contacted.

More information about DAI can be found on the DAI website (www.dai.com).

UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) was established in 1965 by the United Nations with the mandate to help countries build and share solutions to global development challenges. As a development network, UNDP is on the ground in 166 countries, working with them on their own solutions to global and national development challenges. As they develop local capacity, they draw on the people of UNDP and our wide range of partners.

In the Philippines, UNDP supports human development for peace and prosperity. Working with central and local governments as well as civil society, and building on people's best practices, UNDP strengthens capacities of women, men and institutions to empower them to sustain the MDGs and the objectives of the Philippine Plan for Gender-Responsive Law, Governance and Development Initiatives. With a special focus on vulnerable groups, UNDP contributes to poverty reduction, promoting democratic governance, fostering environmental sustainability, and dealing wisely with climate change and natural disasters, strengthening peace and conflict prevention, to create a better life for the people of the Philippines.

UNDP Philippines is inviting qualified candidates to fill the following posts (citizens are available to our website http://www.undp.org.ph/index):

- **MEDIA OFFICER, NOA**

Summary of Key Functions:

Assist in the development and implementation of the UNDP CO communications strategy
Design, administer and implement/plan at the CO media strategy
High quality and result-based media events
Facilitation of knowledge building and sharing

Qualifications:

Education: Master's degree in Mass Media, Journalism, Communications or development-related field
Experience: At least 5 years of good media network experience at the national or international level in media and public relations, communications and advocacy programming. Experience in the usage of computers, workflow and key skills creation in both written and visual formats; in-depth knowledge and understanding of social media platforms; excellent interpersonal and communications skills and organizational and planning skills; strong established network contacts/linkages with various UNDP publics, media and press. Working knowledge of UNDP's thematic portfolio and priorities, and of development organizations is an advantage.
Language: Excellent command of English and Filipino.

- **Programme Associate for Democratic Governance, SG 7**

Summary of Key Functions:

Administration and implementation of programme strategies, simple processes and procedures
Support to management of the CO Democratic Governance programme
Administrative assistance to the Programme Team
Support in creation of strategic partnerships and implementation of the resource mobilization strategy
Facilitation of knowledge building and knowledge sharing

Qualifications:

Education: Bachelor's degree in the Political Science, Public Administration, Economics, Social Sciences or related field. A Master's Degree and knowledge of computer applications (MS Office) is an advantage.
Experience: 7 years of progressively responsible programme or administrative experience; experience in the usage of computers, and advance knowledge of (or proficient) and database packages and experience in handling of confidential information and management skills.
Language: Excellent command of English and Filipino.

The selected candidate will receive a salary that is commensurate with his/her background and work experience. Interested applicants are requested to complete the UN Personal History Form (P11), available at our website http://www.undp.org.ph/index and send to:

Administrative Officer/Recruiter
UNDP, United Nations Development Programme
25th Floor, Philippine Stock Exchange Centre, Exchange Road, Ortigas Center, Pasig City

Indicating the "Application for the Post, Title and Vacancy No." on or before 27 September 2012. Kindly note that only shortlisted and applied for in terms will be contacted. UNDP is an equal opportunity employer. Please note that we will conduct only the most rigorous candidates.

DO YOU HAVE WHAT IT TAKES TO SERVE OUR COUNTRY AS DTI'S FRONTLINE MOVER IN THE COMPETITIVE WORLD OF INTERNATIONAL COMMERCE?

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SERVING OUR GLOBAL NETWORK OF OVERSEAS OFFICES

OUR MISSION IS TO

- ★ Promote the Philippines as a trade and investment hub
- ★ Generate trade and investment leads and prospects
- ★ Monitor and analyze international trade issues and recommend strategic actions
- ★ Assist in Philippine multilateral, regional, and bilateral trade negotiations

Qualifications:

- A Filipino Citizen with integrity, between the ages of 25 to 35 (upon submission or appointment to the Corps), who has not secured or applied for permanent residency outside of the country;
- A holder of at least a BA or BS degree in law, economics, marketing, management, banking and finance, or other relevant courses from a college or university of good standing;
- At least four (4) years of supervisory and commercial management experience or actively engaged in the practice of his or her profession;
- Available for a worldwide assignment and willing to relocate approximately every 3-4 years;
- Have knowledge of economic, political, and social issues and conditions; trade and investment policies, export and investment marketing;
- Must be Civil Service Professional Eligible or granted civil service eligibility status (honor graduates and professional license holders) pursuant to PD. 907 and R.A. 1080. Non-eligible applicants may still apply provided they secure eligibility within the duration of the Selection Process.

If you meet these qualifications, you will undergo the following Selection Process:

1. Pre-screening	DTI Makati	4. Psychological Appraisal	Quezon City
2. Written Technical Exam	DTI Makati	5. Simulation Exercise	Pasig City
3. Panel Interview	DTI Makati	6. Executive Committee Interview	DTI Makati

NOTE: EACH STEP IS A HURDLE STAGE. TO PROCEED TO THE NEXT STEP YOU SHOULD MEET THE CUT-OFF SCORE OF THE PRECEDING STEP.

Application forms are available from and should be submitted to the
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND PERSONNEL SERVICES
DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY
4/F, Trade and Industry Building, 361 Senator Gil J. Puyat Avenue, Makati City
Tel. Nos. (63.2) 7513132 or 7510384 local 2412

Application forms are also downloadable at www.dti.gov.ph

Deadline of Applications: 10 OCTOBER 2012 (WEDNESDAY), 5PM

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- **A Nurturing Work Environment** - Diversity Inc. ® 2011 – Top 50 Companies for Diversity.
- **A Progressive Team of Experts** - IDG ® Computerworld® Best Places to Work in Information Technology 2011 and one of Training magazine's "Training Top 125 list 2012".

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ADB Avenue, Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong City, 1550 Philippines

HR. Payroll. Benefits.

HIRING

(4) Account Officers/Managers
- Male/Female, 25-30 years old
- Graduate of Architecture, Engineering or Marketing
- Must have basic knowledge in sales, marketing and account management
- Dynamic and pleasing personality
- Excellent verbal and written communication
- Computer literate

(4) Electrical/Mechanical/Civil Engineers
- Male, 25-30 years old
- Preferably Licensed
- 1 to 2 years work experience
- Knowledgeable in AUTOCAD
- With good interpersonal skills

(2) Marketing Associates
- Male/Female, 21-30 years old
- With Marketing or Communication Arts Advertising degree
- Excellent verbal and written communication, preferably fluently English and pleasing personality
- Work experience in marketing, advertising and promotions preferred

All qualified applicants are required to send their updated resume to dtrubadeira@pldt.com.ph by Wednesday, September 12, 2012.

Experience Growth. Join us.

Bonby Enterprises, Inc. is one of the top players in Philippine retail importation and distribution business. It is home of leading international food brands like Frito Lay Snacks, Quaker Oats, M&M's, Snickers, Fortune, Lactum, Mead, Reynolds, among others.

As it continues its stellar growth and becomes more aggressive in pursuit of greater heights, Bonby is in search of top caliber professionals to fill-up the following positions for our expansion:

OPERATIONS MANAGER
(MINDANAO)

AREA SALES MANAGERS / CHANNEL MANAGERS
(ORMA, LUZON, VISAYAS & MINDANAO)

KEY ACCOUNT MANAGERS/ ACCOUNT SPECIALISTS / DISTRIBUTOR SPECIALISTS
(ORMA, LUZON, VISAYAS & MINDANAO)

SALES MANAGEMENT TRAINEES
(ORMA, LUZON, VISAYAS & MINDANAO)

IT APPLICATIONS DEVELOPER
HEAD OFFICE)

WAREHOUSE SUPERVISORS
(LUZON, VISAYAS & MINDANAO)

ACCOUNTING / AUDIT ASSISTANTS
HEAD OFFICE, VISAYAS MINDANAO)

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT STAFF
(LUZON, VISAYAS & MINDANAO WAREHOUSES)

FOR INTERESTED APPLICANTS, YOU CAN SEND YOUR RESUME TO:

FOR INQUIRIES, CONTACT US AT:

OR VISIT: www.bonby.com

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FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING
ASSOCIATE LAWYER
- Must be a member of the Philippine Bar
- With at least 2 to 3 year(s) of working experience in corporate and/or litigation practice
- Preferably a graduate of the top 3 law schools

Interested applicants may personally submit or e-mail their resumes & transcript of records to:

BUENAFE & MANALO LAW FIRM
4th Floor Manila Gas Building
Sen. Gil Puyat cor. Makati Avenue
Salcedo Village, Makati City
Email Address: office@bmlaw.com.ph
Telephone Nos.: 751-7709, 753-8899, 754-8888 loc. 214-220

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We are currently searching for dynamic and effective leaders to join our expanding sales management team.

Sales Managers

(Metro Manila, Cebu, Davao, Subic, Bacolod and Cagayan de Oro)

- Graduate of any business, engineering, or IT related course
- With 2 to 5 years experience in sales, preferably industrial and office equipment
- Proven track record in sales and account management
- Has passion for developing strategies to achieve sales targets
- Excellent communication, presentation and negotiation skills
- Working knowledge in computer software and networking applications
- Preferably familiar with traditional and digital printing, and
- Background in graphic arts equipment and/or market is a plus

We offer competitive salary commensurate with the applicant's experience and skills, plus allowances and commissions.

Email your resume with photo to:
hr.officer@ubix.com.ph or hr3@ubix.com.ph

U-Bix Head Office: 104H Angono St., JP Rizal, Makati City
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Manila Nos.: [illegible]

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unicef
write for children

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
"INSTITUTIONAL CONTRACTOR"
to undertake the:
"Development of communication tools on breastfeeding and complementary feeding"

For interested CONTRACTORS, please log on to UNICEF website http://www.unicef.ph/pdf/business/RFP.pdf for the RFP and the Terms of Reference. For queries, please email wclearinghouse@unicef.org or hardcopies@unicef.org or call 891-0161, 891-0172 or 8917580 to 93. Deadline for proposal submission is extended to **26 September 2011**.

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unicef
write for children

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
"INSTITUTIONAL CONTRACTOR"
to undertake the:
"Development of a video on food variety in complementary feeding"

For interested CONTRACTORS, please log on to UNICEF website http://www.unicef.ph/pdf/business/RFP.pdf for the RFP and the Terms of Reference. For queries, please email wclearinghouse@unicef.org or hardcopies@unicef.org or call 891-0161, 891-0172 or 8917580 to 93. Deadline for proposal submission is extended to **26 September 2011**.

FOR IMMEDIATE EMPLOYMENT

(1) ACCOUNTING CLERK
- Female, age 22 to 29
- Accounting graduate
- Preferably with at least one (1) year accounting experience

(1) FAMILY DRIVER
- Male, age 27 to 35
- With experience (Professional driver's license required)

Interested applicants may email their comprehensive resume with cover letter to acctgjobs@yahoo.com attention to Ms. May Lejana. Walk-in applicants may visit our office at 196 Calamba St., Mission Village, Quezon City with:
Tel. Nos. 713-4780 to 83
Thank you in advance for your interest. National candidates will be contacted for interviews.

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CEBU DAILY NEWS

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HR OFFICER

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- Preferably with BIR clients
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- Knowledge of Standards for Professional Practice of Internal Auditing
- Knowledge of Financial Statements, Taxation, Labor Laws
- Leadership and Analytical Skills
- Will directly report to the Audit Head

NETWORK/SYSTEMS ENGINEER
- College graduate preferably Computer Science, Computer Engineering or Electronics Communications Engineering
- At least 3 years experience in the job or jobs relating to it
- Knowledge of concepts in computer networking, e-mail and internet administration
- Server Administration and Development
- TCP/IP Network, SQL Databases, Linux, PHP, Perl Scripting, CMS

PHOTOGRAPHER
- College Graduate preferably Fine Arts or Journalism (All Major) or undergraduate major in Photography
- At least 2 years solid experience as photographer in Publication or Ad/s agency/ies (Newspaper or Magazine)
- IT Competent, Visual Literate Graduate

EDITORIAL PRODUCTION ASSISTANT
- College graduate preferably major in Mass Communications and/or Journalism
- Knowledge on Pagemaker, Photoshop or any related pagination or editing software
- Proofreading Skills, Encoding Skills, Scanning Skills, Layouting Skills

SALES ASSISTANT
- College graduate preferably with background in Sales and Marketing
- At least 1 year experience in this job or jobs relating to it
- Basic Computer Operations Skills, Administrative Skills, Telephone Communication Skills

Send your application letter and comprehensive resume to:
THE HR MANAGEMENT SERVICES HEAD
Philippine Daily Inquirer, Inc.
Chino Roces Ave. (formerly Pasong Tamo)
cor. Yague and Mascardo Sts., Makati City
E-mail: hrmailmanila@inquirer.com.ph

Immediate Hiring

HUMAN RESOURCE & ADMIN MANAGER

- Preferably male with strong personality
- Not more than 35 years old
- Graduate of bachelor's degree in Psychology or Business Admin
- Minimum of 2 years experience
- Proficient in oral and written English
- With knowledge in computer applications such as MS Word and MS Excel

Please e-mail your resume at
speedwatch.security@gmail.com

IMMEDIATE HIRING

ACCOUNTING STAFF

- At least 2 years experience in bookkeeping, filing taxes & other accounting related works
- Willing to work overtime
- Degree in Bachelor of Science in Accountancy
- Preferably Single (25 yrs old and above)

Interested applicant may call:
Tel. # 456-6433 or 454-7882
Look for Claire

P.G. CONSTRUCTION
#35 Fema Rd. Brgy. Bahay Toro Q.C.

Yoshinoya announces the grand winner of 10Tastic Treats

THE LONG WAIT IS FINALLY OVER! AFTER THREE MONTHS of much anticipation, Yoshinoya's Philippines announces the grand winner of its 10Tastic Treats Anniversary Promo. The leading quick service Japanese food joint launched the said promo in celebration of its tenth anniversary and as a treat for their loyal patrons of authentic and affordable Japanese food for the last 10 years. And the lucky winner of the grand prize, a Samsung Galaxy Note, is 40-year old Jenny Bellolano-Herrera from Pasay City. A devoted Yoshinoya fan of almost a decade, Jenny frequents the Yoshinoya SM Mall of Asia branch on a weekly basis together with her 9-year old kid. Sharing their love for Japanese food, Jenny and her son visit Yoshinoya regularly to indulge themselves in authentic yet affordable Japanese treats that only Yoshinoya offers. Other winners are Norman A.V. Santiago, who won a year supply of Yoshinoya Beef Bowl and Jacqueline Gabriel, who won an iPad 2.

(From left) to right) Ms. Jenny Bellolano-Herrera, grand winner of Yoshinoya's 10tastic Treats and Mr. Timmy Ong, CEO of Yoshinoya Century Pacific Group

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HINGE INQUIRER Publication

ART DIRECTOR
QUALIFICATIONS:
- College graduate preferably Fine Arts or Graphic Design
- Highly creative and artistic
- Adventurous in ideas
- Must have knowledge in publishing & layout principles

EDITORIAL ASSISTANT
QUALIFICATIONS:
- College graduate preferably Journalism
- Good in personal management and detailed oriented person
- Excellent communication skills
- Possesses skills on problem solving, judgment and comprehension
- Computer literate

PHOTOGRAPHER
QUALIFICATIONS:
- College Graduate
- Highly creative and professional
- Attentive to details and good coordination skills
- Knowledgeable in Digital Photography and studio photography
- Proficient in basic photography equipment
- Proficient in Office applications and Adobe Photoshop
- Excellent oral and written communication skills

Interested applicants may send their resume with picture or attachment to hr@hinge.com.ph or rafmedina@yahoo.com. For inquiries you may contact 749-4000 and look for Charlie Ibrahim.

CEBU DAILY NEWS

COPY EDITOR

EDITORIAL ASSISTANT

PROOFREADER

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We are currently searching for dynamic and effective leaders to join our expanding sales management team.

Sales Manager

- Preferably graduate of Architecture, Interior Design or other related courses
- Specializing in selling and marketing of high-end office furniture systems or related products is an advantage.
- Must have two years meaningful work experience in sales management position
- Has passion for developing strategies to achieve sales targets
- Willing to do field work
- With pleasing and engaging personality.
- Excellent written and oral communication skills.

Account Executives

- College graduate; graduate of Architecture or Interior Design is an advantage
- Specializing in selling and marketing of high-end office furniture systems or related products is an advantage.
- Must have two years meaningful sales experience in a related industry
- Willing to do field work
- With pleasing and engaging personality.
- Excellent written and oral communication skills.

We offer competitive salary commensurate with the applicant's experience and skills, plus allowances and commissions.

E-mail your resume with photo to:
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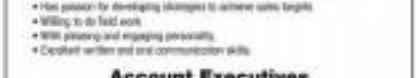
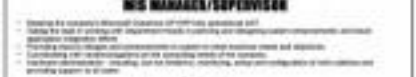


SALES MANAGER

MIS MANAGER/SUPERVISOR



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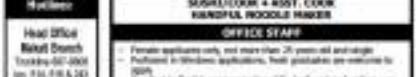

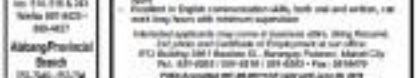

WORKING PEOPLE

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Editor Jaime Francis M. Balboa/Bits

Stop being famous for doing menial jobs

ASK YOUR CAREER COUNSELOR

Ernie G. Cecilio

FOR THE LONGEST TIME, THE Human Resources (HR) function has been under scrutiny. Unlike other business functions, HR has always been relegated as a support function. Despite improvements in the HR practice in recent times, the challenge of change for HR seems big in the horizon.

In the words of Scott Quick, "if HR does not meet the challenge of change, it is at risk of being rationalized."

HR roles

Hotly debated emerging roles for HR – strategic business partner aligning HR with business, and full-fledged managers execute management. Administrative experts focus on improving efficiency and cost effective delivery of transactional HR. Employee champions are the voice of the employees, but their role is to increase employee contribution and coordinate change agents to drive organizational transformation and culture change.

In these roles, HR practitioners have been charged with increasingly important mandates... building leadership bench, ensuring organizational capabilities, talent management, enhancing knowledge transfer, and how equipped leadership.

In the HR professional literature and best-selling books by their CEOs or a strategic partner. The discussion centers around the HR practitioners' ability to bring maximum contribution to the business.

- HR is essentially a support function with limited intrinsic value and indirect impact on business performance.
- HR is marginalized in terms of status, expert knowledge, influence and power. Its contribution is not valued to the business.
- HR is the least core function and can provide high level strategic input just by virtue of its position.
- HR practitioners need to do more than transformation to the business, especially due to lack of best practice and more transformation HR to ensure productive understanding.
- Most HR practitioners do not have the ability to [discuss business issues].

Irrespective the three roles is to create the [basis] of more essential jobs giving the HR practitioner easy.

CEO perceptions

In a recent survey, CEOs recommend some negative perceptions from [the] HR:

- HR is essentially a support function with limited intrinsic value and indirect impact on business performance.
- HR is marginalized in terms of status, expert knowledge, influence and power. Its contribution is not valued to the business.
- HR is the least core function and can provide high level strategic input just by virtue of its position.
- HR practitioners need to do more than transformation to the business, especially due to lack of best practice and more transformation HR to ensure productive understanding.
- Most HR practitioners do not have the ability to [discuss business issues].

Irrespective the three roles is to create the [basis] of more essential jobs giving the HR practitioner easy.

HR in the Board

For several decades now, it plays in the Board room has been considered as the Holy Grail for HR practitioners here and in other parts of the world. The test to top Board is often considered a necessary condition for HR practitioners to exercise strategic influence in business decision-making.

Is Board [is] for the top HR person can prove advantageous. It is for expected greater [influence], input and influence in business planning process. It should result in a more positive perception of the overall performance of HR. It helps higher ratings of CEO perceptions of the HR function as professional. It is there would be greater assignation of HR strategy with business security.

Conditions exist as to the objective necessity for the Board seat for HR. Are there alternative pathways for strategic influences of the HR practitioners? The Katalyst Institute explored the Board-seat "should HR simply focus strategic partnership with top management provided it delivers business audience? Without the Board room seat, can HR dispel its old image of administrative and transactional support function? Is Board room dream just a search for "symbolic capital" or "distinction" and nothing to do with influence?

Declining representation

In the Philippines, you can count in your fingers the number of HR practitioners given a Board seat. A large companies like Ayala, Jollibee and top HR of Philips and a member of its Board of Directors, but he had to leave to [focus] on other [work]. My [colleagues] he [saw frequently] can vary on [the] issue of Board seat.

From [1995 to 2004] there is a decline in HR's [representation] representation in the [Board] 61.1% to 46.4%. Less than 4% of PSE 500 companies have HR directors on their Boards. Only 2% of [the] HR director representation in PSE 100 companies declined from 6 to 5.

Reasons of declining Board representation, it becomes absolutely necessary for HR practitioners to identify alternative mechanisms for exercising strategic influences in the business. Whether the Board seat ambition is still relevant or not, the fact remains that many HR practitioners still owe for would continue to nurture that elusive dream.

Strategic HR

In some companies, HR is considered strategic. The whole chain on the frequency with which HR practitioners [have] with the Board, how actively the CEO uses HR [more], and the extent to which business planning process is influenced by HR [are].

Early involvement of HR in strategy formulation helps make HR more strategic and value driven. Ulrich and Brockbank [suggest] strategy implementation makes HR effective, operational and deeply involved. There is strong correlation between HR's involvement in Boards in strategic business planning and implementation. By HR involvement, I don't mean chairing the [meeting], but [attending], [meeting assignments], and other [participating] [activities].

Revolutionizing HR

On September 12 to 14, 2012, the People Management Association of the Philippines (PMAP) shall hold its 40th Annual Conference at the Marriott Hotel Manila Luhuay, Cebu City. PMAP was established in 1956 as a professional, non-stock, non-profit organization of HR practitioners. The vision of PMAP as 1982 Rita Pina's study, its Code's Methods Books, five objectives, Golden Circle Awards, Annual Conference, PMAP's the premier HR organization in the Philippines, with over 1,400 member companies and individual members. The annual conference is one of the many ways where PMAP helps in development, enlightenment, connection, to [the] HR practitioners and other people engaged who are actively participates in nation building. Its membership is now open to non-HR practitioners. The 2012 PMAP Conference will be [focused] on [the] theme "[Revolutionizing HR: Transformative Strategies for Global Mindset, Global Changes, Unparalleled Results]." The conference features plenary sessions with CEOs and thought leaders who will discuss the changing business environment and the [changing] role of HR in executing HR [initiatives] is essential in the organization and support business goals. Sessions are [focused] on "Deepening leadership Bench", "Embracing business", "Accelerating Talent Development", among other relevant topics.

Participating HR and line managers will experience and learn the Team Space Technology a powerful tool for [getting productive meetings with up to a couple of thousand people]. It is very useful in leading [organizations] under dynamic change and for everyday practice.

The PMAP annual conference is packed with powerful sessions, beginning with the opening [keynote address of Executive Secretary Ric Annie Lanzas]. Day 2 starts with keynote address from Nobel Laureate, President of Ateneo, followed by insights from Ramon Isidro, Chair of Harvard Business School's Advanced Management Program Jack Chin-Dominique Antonettes, Betty Siegel and Rhodora Fruscalzo will discuss innovative people management. Plenary Session 3 features HR Frontiers and CEO Gigi Ibrahim and Lead Allen Meridaville CEO. [Jollibee who shall] [talk about] [how to strengthen leadership bench].

Plenary Session 4 highlights participants in accelerating talent development in Global Mindset. Featuring BPAP President and CEO Rolando Hernandez. The Conference Boards also Pacific Energy Chief Executive Officer Nelly Boncan Ong, Cebu Landmasters Inc. Regis Colbatan, CEO of Global Learning Solutions. The closing dinner session is Steven J. Jenkins, Managing Principal of the Asian Institute of Management.

Day 3 is devoted to simultaneous workshops that will [facilitate] people and [organizational issues] with global leaders from government, business and the HR profession.

The much-awaited Annual PMAP Awards shall take place on the evening of September 13, where PMAP shall recognize the [4] Outstanding HR Practitioners, the People Manager of the Year (PMY), and People Program of the Year (PPY). This is the most prestigious award for recognizing HR practitioners with true passion in business leadership, employee engagement and empowerment, and a focus on [results]. Nominations are open for all employers and HR practitioners of choice. The PMAP Awards Committee is chaired by Ms. Ma. Victoria Gonzalez-Cruz (Past PMY) member Vicky Saenz, HRM. The screening and judging processes were so rigorous that the winners [are] [acknowledged] as the appropriate ones as ranks have risen. This year's PMAP President is Arthur Luis Pinzon and the 40th Conference Chair is Grace Sorongon.

The PMAP officer-[in-charge] for PMAP members, early registrants, walk-ins and [non-participants]. But only accredited [media] will be [given] [complimentary] [registration].

For inquiries, contact only at the following: Anna Belgica-Ellis, Marketing Director of the PMAP Annual Conference at her office at the Philippine Daily Inquirer, or Annie Lanzas-Mesa, Conference Chair at annie_lanzas@yahoo.com.ph; or PMAP at www.pmap.org.ph or at telephone 727-0301. Registrations can be done online through the PMAP website.

(Ernie serves in various capacities at the American Chamber of Commerce [AMCHAM], Employers Confederation of the Philippines [ECOP]and the People Management Association of the Philippines [PMAP] and other professional and [non-governmental] organizations. [MOST] in 2011, he was given recognition as Diplomate in People Management. [ONE] was voted "Most Recognized Columnist of the Year" for his [various topics] column by PMAP, which he was President [in] 2000. He is the President and CEO of Cecilio, Ernie G. Career and Career Center, a human resource consulting firm. His [two] books, "[Hit] The Lottery" and "Get [Ahead] in Your Career" [are] [best sellers]. He can be reached at ernie_cecilio@yahoo.com).

Gospel: Mark 7: 31-37

Then He looked up to heaven and groaned, and said to him, "Ephphatha!" that is, "Be opened!" And immediately his ears were opened, his speech impediment was removed, and he spoke plainly.

The power of words

By Bishop Precioso D. Cantillas, SDB, DD

THE POWER OF JESUS, THE SON OF GOD, THE MESSIAH, ARE so powerful. The words He utters inspire. When He says to them, His other happened to the utterance of this second Gospel. Our words, spoken by us, humans, may not have the same powerful result as that of Jesus, but, our human experience tells the reader that the words do affect us—they could [have] us to do something in the good or bad. Our words change our perspectives, outlook in life and us to [see] [are] and therefore is to be careful with the words we say, we need to harness the power of words for our good and for the healing and wholeness of others.

The words we say at work and the manner we utter them could affect everyone in the workplace. Close [communication] of work instructions, operational procedures and other decisions for working could result to [economies, efficiency and productivity performance] of workers, which in turn, results to greater satisfaction. The [tone] the words we utter could affect the [morale] [motivation] and happiness for everyone in the workplace. A more human way of verbal communication, as directed from an "[abusive]" manner like shouting or yelling at subordinates or at superiors in the [company] or other unreasonable [acts or conditions]—like [excuses or explanations] [of] [workers] in the workplace, but [it] does not [form] a need or requirement for productivity. Affirming words inspire and build up the workers while harsh and judgmental words could discourage and put down the workers' spirit. A reasonable and kind way of giving corrections and or disciplinary actions for the workers and workers, who [are] [happy] and [satisfied] [outside], would have a greater chance of offering a healing and redeeming attitude in the [at] workers than the cold and insensitive manner.

The curses, [either] [one] or rudeness [words] [come] from [those] in his effort or speak powerful words to the others in life and at work. Furthermore, the worker who [is] [in] pain with the Son of God, through faith and love, could share in his power, which could [make] everyone experience healing, peace and joy.

REFLECTIONS FOR THE WORKING SOUL

An open ear

By Teresa R. Tuvay, OCDS

AN OPEN EAR IN THE WORKPLACE COULD DO A LOT OF good, especially if that ear belongs to the boss. Bosses do not have a monopoly of great ideas—the little people in the lower rungs of the corporate ladder also have worthy to note.Sullenat ministries up their heads. A boss with an open ear shows he is not in the category of the "[untouchables]" who couldn't enjoy and benefit from working with the kind of superior!

This reminds me of the battle currently raging over the "[reproductive health]" bill because the Congress is one workplace where an open ear is indispensable to making sound and wise decisions. I've observed the debates in Batasan a number of times and I regret to say that the solons passing for the approval the RH bill seem to have closed their ears to God and made clear the public have a right to know. For instance, despite overwhelming evidence provided by the anti-RH camp on the destructive physiological and psychological side effects of contraceptive drugs and devices, RH proponents insist that these are the desirable solutions to the country's poverty. To justify the government's purchase of abortifacient drugs, the pro-RH congressmen resort to the [anti-life] formula like hogwash [of] [family planning] [is] [the] [answer] [to] [poverty] [and] [unemployment]. If [there] is one word that should [not] [be] [misspelled] in the halls of Congress where laws are made—then, lawmakers who close their ears to truth are not doing their job properly and with his [word] to the [cross], that kind of [solons spells disaster] for the country!

Our word may not be as "important" as politicians' but in our respective workplaces we can choose to open our ears in order to give our optimum performance. With Jesus who made the deaf hear and the mute speak, our ears—and our hearts—will be opened for the sake of the common good.

(Bishop Precioso D. Cantillas, SDB, DD is the Bishop of Masbate. He is also the Chairman of the Episcopal Commission on Biblical Apostolate. He can be reached at bishopcantillas@yahoo.com.)

Grace C. Sorongon: PMAP's ArmCHAIR Revolutionary

By Zeny P. Iglesias

HOW TO TEAMS WORK THE PEOple Management Association of the Philippines (PMAP) has been the umbrella professional organization of HR practitioners, business and management executives, operating nationwide with 10 active chapters. PMAP has dedicated itself to the cause of promoting excellence in human resource management and industrial relations through its various programs that help [organizations] build [competitive] and [sustainable] [advantage] by [maximizing] [the] [human capital] management.

PMAP is governed at the national level by a 15-member Board of Directors [elected] to [terms] of [one] to [four] the ranks of its committees and accomplished members and officers. With the existence of an Executive Committee [that] [runs] the PMAP membership, various projects are implemented mainly for leadership development, [industrial] [relations], [human resources], and community relations [programs].

This year, PMAP is meeting the "annual challenge" [of] [the] [day], the [event] that serves as the [point] from [the] [where] the changing human environment and that of [the] [PMAP] is [in] [building] and [retaining] people purposes to transform and support [national] [growth].

Grace C. Sorongon, [human] [resources], quickly worked into the [room], [takes] to the presiding officer's [seat] calmly, used to [her] [chosen] [role] [easily], [and] [to] [the] [same] [agenda] of PMAP's general membership to the 40th Annual Conference. [Grace] [is] [elected] to the [position] exactly [takes] as [long] [as] [the] [last] [item] is [resolved], unanimously [members] [are] and [unsolicited] [comments] [are] [made] [whatever] [is] [of] [benefit]. [Grace] [technique] [works] [with] [such] [readers], [with] [diverse] [attitudes] to [achieve] [the] [aim] [aimed] [to] [the] [meeting], [letting] [her] [way] [towards] [the] [desk] [is] [usually] [to] [the] [room] [is].

Holding the position as Chairperson of the year's event featuring [room], Grace is obviously to command. Her [broad] and [functional] leadership style, the [business]—the meeting, the meeting [chaired] [by] [others] [by] [the] [pace] of the room atmosphere, easy [tones], and obvious [camaraderie] that everyone enjoys about [attendance] [at] [the] [meeting] [and] popularity. These [attributes] [come] regular [attendees] from colleagues, [industry] [peers], and [many] [friends]. [Even] [if] [friends] [to] [study] so much as a [respected] [leader], [Grace] [is] [regarded] [as] [someone] [in] [the] [Philippines] [is] [also] [considered] [a] [person] [who] [has] [been] [involved] [in] [the] [PMAP's] [90th] [Annual] [Conference].

Before taking [stock] and [turn] for the 40th AC, may be [many] [more] [challenging] [professional] [tasks] [ahead], but [something] [like] [this] [year's] [theme] of "Revolutionizing People Management" has been the [summary] of her [close] to 25 [years] [with] [PMAP].

In a [recent] [interview], Grace [shares] her [views] on [important] [industry] [issues] [that] [have] [helped] [shape] [the] [HR] [profession] [and] [the] [forthcoming] [PMAP's] [40th] [Annual] [Conference].

Q: What are the highlights of your [PMAP] [career]?

GCS: [Career] [Consultant], [my] [participation] [in] [HR] [issues] [it] [is] [always] [a] [pleasure] [to] [serve] [on] [the] [Board] [of] [Directors] [of] [PMAP] [and] [to] [be] [elected] [as] [Chairperson] [of] [the] [Annual] [Conference] [in] [2012].

Q: What do you see of the Philippine nation's future in the global job market?

GCS: [The] Philippines will be enjoying important roles in the global market. We have the ability to integrate [at] [all] [levels], we are [ranked] [in] [the] [top] [10] [countries] [in] [the] [world] [in] [terms] [of] [the] [number] [of] [English] [speakers]. [Even] [if] [we] [are] [not] [the] [highest] [in] [the] [region] [in] [terms] [of] [the] [number] [of] [English] [speakers], [we] [are] [still] [the] [best] [in] [the] [region] [in] [terms] [of] [the] [number] [of] [English] [speakers] [who] [are] [also] [fluent] [in] [other] [languages].

Q: What can be done to further improve the Philippines image as an investment destination?

GCS: We have a good number of [investment] [incentives] [in] [the] [Philippines]. I suspect [but] [the] [Bureau] [of] [Investment] [and] [Department] [of] [Trade] [and] [Industry] [should] [be] [able] [to] [provide] [more] [details] [on] [this]. [Corporate] [governance] [in] [the] [Philippines] [is] [also] [considered] [as] [one] [of] [the] [best] [in] [the] [region]. [Even] [if] [we] [have] [the] [best] [governance] [in] [the] [region], [we] [still] [have] [to] [improve] [in] [some] [areas].

Q: What does your ordinary day look like?

GCS: [There] [is] [no] [ordinary] [day]. [I] [do] [a] [work]... [work]... [work]...

Q: What keeps you awake at night?

GCS: [The] [challenges] [we] [are] [facing] [in] [the] [market] [keep] [me] [awake].

Q: What are your personal and professional plans for the next [5] [years]?

GCS: I will be [retiring] then. I will be [content] more on [my] [family] [and] [to] [spend] [more] [time] [on] [spiritual] [matters].

Q: What are the highlights of your involvement with PMAP?

GCS: [Being] [a] [member] [of] [the] [Board] [of] [Directors] [of] [PMAP] [and] [as] [Chairperson] [of] [the] [Annual] [Conference] [in] [2012].

Q: What are the highlights of your involvement with PMAP?

GCS: [Being] [a] [member] [of] [the] [Board] [of] [Directors] [of] [PMAP] [and] [as] [Chairperson] [of] [the] [Annual] [Conference] [in] [2012].

Currently, I am the Vice President and the [chairman] of the [National] [Conference] [in] [2012]. [The] [highlights] [of] [my] [involvement] [in] [PMAP] [since] [the] [80s] [is] [the] [many] [friendships] [I've] [developed] [over] [the] [years] [with] [PMAP] [members] [from] [all] [over] [the] [country]. [I've] [also] [developed] [a] [deep] [appreciation] [for] [the] [work] [that] [PMAP] [does] [in] [terms] [of] [helping] [the] [HR] [profession] [grow] [in] [the] [country].

(Zeny is [senior] [consultant] [at] [Development] [Academy] [of] [the] [Philippines] [(DAP)] [and] [Chairman] [of] [the] [Board] [of] [Trustees] [of] [the] [Philippine] [Institute] [for] [Development] [Studies] [(PIDS)]. [She] [is] [also] [a] [member

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Education: High School Graduate. **Experience:** None required. **Training:** None required. **Eligibility:** None required (RA 1080 or QS)

JOB ORDER PERSONNEL

Clerk II, Php15,116.00/month (to be assigned in the Research and Development Management Division)

Minimum Qualification Standards
Education: College Graduate. **Experience:** 2 months if relevant experience. **Training:** Clerical or General Training

Applications may be submitted directly to:

THE CHAIRMAN
Personnel Selection Board
National Research Council of the Philippines
General Santos Avenue, Bicutan
1631 Taguig City

Please enclose latest application data, certificate of eligibility, transcript of records, diploma, 2 typhoid digital and one (1" x 1" picture. Applications must be received by NRCP not on before **September 20, 2012**. For incomplete papers submitted the NRCP Human Resource Management Section at 837-43-20 loc 2115 or 837-43-20 loc 2107 will not be entertained.

IMMEDIATE HIRING!!!

A JAPANESE MANUFACTURING FOUNDATION IN LAGUNA TECHNOPARK III IS IN NEED OF THE FF:

SALES ENGINEER
ENGINEERING STAFF
PRODUCTION ENGINEER

Male or Female 18-35 yrs

Graduate of Engineering, Mechanical course or Marketing
Computer literate, knowledge in AutoCAD, an advantage
Trustworthy, independent and can work under pressure
Good in oral and written communication

APPLICANTS MUST SUBMIT THESE DOCUMENTS AND "ENDORSEMENT OF INTERVIEW TO BEING TAKEN BY JAPANESE" PRIOR TO LAGUNA TECHNOPARK III.

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Dep'D Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City, Philippines

DepED

VACANT POSITIONS

EDUCATION CONSULTANTS/SPECIALISTS

DepED-ESP/TAF is looking for Consultants/Specialists in the following fields/areas of engagement under Contract of Service:

A. One (1) Organizational Development Specialist and One (1) Instructional Materials Development Specialist/Lead Writer/Designer

1. Master's Degree or units in Education Management and/or Field
2. Minimum of five (5) years work experience in the field or expertise
3. DepED Validation/ARE
4. Excellent written, oral and communication skills
5. Can't pass on-site knowledge on Basic Education under MNSA

B. One (1) Programming/System Analyst and One (1) Senior Systems Development Programmer for Learning Resource Management and Development System (LRMDS), and Web and Mobile Technologies

1. Graduate of IT certification, IT degree and other related trainings
2. Minimum of five (5) years work experience in the field or expertise
3. DepED Validation/ARE

Interested applicants may contact the following for the specific Terms of Reference (TOR) of each area and send their Curriculum Vitae, copy of training certificates, diploma, and transcript of records, certificate of employment and other applicable credentials:

ESP/TAF Project Coordinating Office
Room 21, DepED Complex
Meralco Avenue, Pasig City
(02) 633-7865

Deadline for submission of applications is on 30 September 2012

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"Living or dying, Lord Jesus, I would be Yours.
Keep me Your own forever.
Draw me close to the center to Your
Love I am wholly filled with Your Love."

Sanctified, Jesus Christ, Our Lord
The Clergy and Scandal of the Diocese of Malolos
extend their sincerest prayers and condolences
to the relatives and friends of

REV. FR. RICARDO L. MERCADO
(1955 - 2012)

who peacefully joined his Creator
on Sunday Father, on September 9, 2012

His remains lie in state at their family residence at Block Pines, Orion, Bataan until Sunday evening (September 9, 2012) and on Monday (September 10, 2012) 9:00 a.m. his remains will be transferred at the Diocesan Shrine of Our Lady of Salambao - St. Paschal Baylon Parish (Orion).

A funeral Mass with the Malolos Clergy to be presided by Most Rev. Jose F. Oliveros, D.D., will be celebrated on Tuesday, September 11, 2012 at 9:00 a.m. at the Diocesan Shrine of Nuestra Señora de Salambao, Orion, Bataan.
San Diego de Alcala Parish in Pulo, Valenzuela City

Message of Thanks

The family of the late

JULIO "JACK" REZABA

who died on July 18, 2012

Can say their heartfelt gratitude to all those who in one way or another communicated with them in their hour of grief.

Special thanks to relatives and friends who not only offered prayers, flowers and other forms of consolation, but also shared their precious time with the family in their moment of spiritual need.

GOD BLESS

"If we have died with Him, we shall also live with Him; if we hold out to the end, we shall also reign with Him. And what is the simple truth"

Our Beloved
Lungarda Victorio
"Lola Dandoy"
peacefully joined our Lord on September 7, 2012 at the age of 93.

Her remains will lie in Bluebird Street, Admiral, BF Resort Village, Las Piñas City from September 7 – 11, 2012.

Interment will be on September 11, 2012 at the Manila Memorial Park.

Children:
Jocelina V. Suarez — Evelyn V. Alido

DOMINGO, Elpidio Casimiro
November 16, 1923 - August 27, 2012

Born in Manila on November 16, 1923, Elpidio passed away on August 27, 2012 surrounded by loved ones after an unexpected struggle with cancer. He worked passionately for Philamlife Manila and Prudential in Canada. He is survived by his wonderful wife/partner, Rosario, his wife of 62 years; children: Jocelina B. Dizon, 5 children, 9 grandchildren and 1 great grandchildren. Prayer & memorial service was held on August 31st, 1950 at St's Peter & Paul Church, Sampaloc, Sto. Dmgo. La funeral Mass was held on August 30th at the church. Kaarin Interment by burial services at Roman Catholic Park. Condolences may be offered to the family at www.sanpedrochapels.com

ARTURO NATIVIDAD AGUILA

peacefully joined his Creator on September 7, 2012 at the age of 67.

His bereaved family: wife Lynda, children Arlyn B. Jare, Ann B. Pena, and Artie, and grandchildren Ron, Jake, Andi and Andee and other relatives and friends request your prayers for the repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at Christ the King Green Meadows, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Tuesday, September 11, 2012 at the Loyola Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque City immediately following the 9:00 a.m. Mass.

NATIVIDAD D. DADUFALZA
29 December 1923 – 04 September 2012

The bereaved family of Natividad D. Dadufalza would like to extend their heartfelt thanks and appreciation to all those who confided with them in their time of sorrow.

Our Dearly Beloved
Atty. Arturo C. Jardiola

Peacefully joined his Creator on the 7th day of September 2012 at the age of 67.

His remains lie in state at Evangelical Church and Cemetery at 1154 C. Raymundo, San Miguel, Pasig City. For more info call 671-0504.

Cremation will be on Sunday, the 9th day of September, 2012, at 1:30 p.m. Mass at 12:45 p.m. followed by Thanksgiving Service at the Evangelical Chapel at 4:00 p.m.

"Come and let us return to the Lord; for He has torn, but He will heal us; He has struck down, but He will bind us up."
– Hosea 6:1

CLASSIFIEDS

Sealed Bid Auction of 21,250 sqm Prime Land
Minimum Bid Price : P 84,375,000
Km. 37, Aguinaldo Highway, Sitio Aurora (Brgy. Ganzaran),
Dasmariñas Cavite (formerly Dasmariñas Paper Mills)

- With frontage of 143 meters along Aguinaldo Highway
- Near Sta Cruz and Robinson's Place Dasmariñas
- Cleared for resort use

CLASSIFIEDS

Department of Environment and Natural Resources
Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission
37 Quezon Avenue, Quezon City
Telefax Nos. +632 3736520 loc 2100 and 2104

INVITATION TO BID FOR
Procurement of Trucking Service for the relocation of Informal Settler Families from Pasig River System

The Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission, through the Government of the Philippines, General Appropriation Act (RA 10155) intends to apply the sum of Two Million Seven Hundred Fifty Two Thousand Pesos (₱2,752,000.00) being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for Procurement of Trucking Service for the relocation of Informal Settler Families from Pasig River System (PRRC-IEC-12-10) and is invited to submit its bid for the same. PRRC-12 Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at bid opening.

The Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission now invites bids for Procurement of Trucking Service for the relocation of Informal Settler Families from Pasig River System. Delivery of the Services required for one (1) trip from the date of NTP. Bidders should have completed, within 10 years from the date of submission and receipt of bids, a contract similar to the Project. The description of an eligible bidder is contained in the Bidding Documents, particularly in Section II. Instructions to Bidders.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using a non-discretionary "pass/fail" criterion as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act (RA) 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act".

Bidding is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, partnerships, or organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to RA 5183 and subject to Commonwealth Act 138.

Interested bidders may obtain further information from Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below during Monday to Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders on September 10, 2012 to October 2, 2012 from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents in the amount of Five Thousand Pesos (₱5,000.00).

It may also be downloaded free of charge from the website of the Philippine Government Electronic Procurement System (PhilGEPS) and the website of the Procuring Entity, provided that Bidders shall pay the non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents not later than the submission of their bids.

The Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission will host a Pre-Bid Conference on September 19, 2012, 1:00 PM at 3rd Floor Triumph Building, #1012 Quezon Avenue, Quezon City, which shall be open only to all interested parties who have purchased the Bidding Documents.

Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before October 2, 2012, 1:00 PM. All Bids must be accompanied by a bid security in any of the acceptable forms and in the amount stated in ITB Clause 18.

Bid opening shall be on October 2, 2012, 1:30 PM at 3rd Floor Triumph Building, #1012 Quezon Avenue, Quezon City. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below. Late bids shall not be accepted.

The Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

For further information, please refer to:

Engr. Gilbert M. Simbajon
Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission
5th Floor, Triumph Building, 1012 Quezon Avenue, Quezon City
Telephone no. 924-57-37
Telefax No. (632) 924-57-37
Telefax no. +632 926 02 32
Website Address: www.prrc.gov.ph

(Sgd.) MR. SIMON L. MOSELION
PRRC Executive Director

(PN – September 9, 2012)

Department of Environment and Natural Resources
Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission
37 Quezon Avenue, Quezon City
Telefax Nos. +632 3736520 loc 2100 and 2104

INVITATION TO BID
FOR Procurement of Transport Service (Van) for the relocation of Informal Settler Families from Pasig River System

The Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission, through the Government of the Philippines, General Appropriation Act (RA 10155) intends to apply the sum of Two Million Seven Hundred Fifty Two Thousand Pesos (₱2,752,000.00) being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for Procurement of Transport Service (Van) for the relocation of Informal Settler Families from Pasig River System (PRRC-IEC-12-10) and is invited to submit its bid for the same. PRRC-12 Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at bid opening.

The Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission now invites bids for Procurement of Transport Service (Van) for the relocation of Informal Settler Families from Pasig River System. Delivery of the Services required for one (1) trip from the date of NTP. Bidders should have completed, within 10 years from the date of submission and receipt of bids, a contract similar to the Project. The description of an eligible bidder is contained in the Bidding Documents, particularly in Section II. Instructions to Bidders.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using a non-discretionary "pass/fail" criterion as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act (RA) 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act".

Bidding is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, partnerships, or organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to RA 5183 and subject to Commonwealth Act 138.

Interested bidders may obtain further information from Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below during Monday to Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders on September 10, 2012 to October 2, 2012 from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents in the amount of Five Thousand Pesos (₱5,000.00).

It may also be downloaded free of charge from the website of the Philippine Government Electronic Procurement System (PhilGEPS) and the website of the Procuring Entity, provided that Bidders shall pay the non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents not later than the submission of their bids.

The Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission will host a Pre-Bid Conference on September 19, 2012, 2:00 PM at 3rd Floor Triumph Building, #1012 Quezon Avenue, Quezon City, which shall be open only to all interested parties who have purchased the Bidding Documents.

Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before October 2, 2012, 2:00 PM. All Bids must be accompanied by a bid security in any of the acceptable forms and in the amount stated in ITB Clause 18.

Bid opening shall be on October 2, 2012, 2:30 PM at 3rd Floor Triumph Building, #1012 Quezon Avenue, Quezon City. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below. Late bids shall not be accepted.

The Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

For further information, please refer to:

Engr. Gilbert M. Simbajon
Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission
5th Floor, Triumph Building, 1012 Quezon Avenue, Quezon City
Telephone no. 924-57-37
Telefax No. (632) 924-57-37
Telefax no. +632 926 02 32
Website Address: www.prrc.gov.ph

(Sgd.) MR. SIMON L. MOSELION
PRRC Executive Director

(PN – Sept. 9, 2012)

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Republic of the Philippines
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHEASTERN PHILIPPINES
Davao City

INVITATION TO BID

Contract No.	Short Name
Project	Procurement and Installation of Integrated Information System for the University
Location	USEP Obrero Campus, Davao City
Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC)	PHP 7,000,000.00
Source	Fund Maintenance
Delivery Date	120 CD (Work) after Contract Signing & Delivery
Contract Duration	Twelve years

GENERAL SPECIFICATIONS:

1. The Integrated Information System must minimally the following modules: Student Records Management Information System, Human Resources Management Information System, Payroll System, Library Management Information System, Financial Management Information System, Property, Plant Equipment and Supplies Inventory System and Online Admission Management Information System.
2. The Integrated Information System must be able to run on Local Area Network and Web-Area Network environment with Distributed Database setup at three categories.
3. A Database Server, Web Hosting System, Operating System (2008 R2 and Microsoft SQL Server 2012) to centralize information, Email Server package.
4. The programming language must be in Microsoft Visual Studio.
5. The Integrated Information System must be compliant and embedded in the system to enable formal and consistent communication. All inputs must be responsive to assure that no false, null, blank entries will be allowed.
6. All sensitive transactions, such as computation/generation of records, must have user authentication in order of priority and sequence.
7. The project contract shall be for a period of two (2) years with an one technical support extendable for at least three (3) additional contracted.
8. The vendor must be able to provide free technical support On-Call and On-Site 24/7 during and after the duration of the contract. Support must include downloadable system patches.
9. The vendor must be willing to turnover the system source codes when the company could no longer provide support.
10. Detailed proof to substantiate user requirements and specifications within the scope of the system and within the period of contract, must be made at no additional cost to USEP.
11. Migration Plan of the existing database to the system's database shall be done by the vendor within the period of contract at no extra charge.
12. Vendor must have full access to the system including system database. Vendor must provide complete documentation of the Entity Relationship Diagram, Object Role Modeling, Data Flow Diagram and system database.
13. The system shall be implemented in the 2nd semester of SY 2012-2013 and must be fully implemented in all USEP campuses within a period of two (2) year.
14. Comprehensive training of end-users and system administrators shall be provided by the vendor.
15. On the day of the opening of bids, the vendor must be ready to demonstrate the Integrated Information System with system demo forms and reports.
16. The vendor must have completed five (5) similar projects within the last ten (10) years from the date of submission and receipt of bids which are being made available and used by private/government owned/operated colleges with at least 10,000 students.
17. The vendor should have Technical Support Personnel (TSP) a percent of at the specified modules requirements of USEP and must be able to implement the system within 2 (two) weeks upon receipt of the Notice to Proceed.
18. The vendor must be an eligible bidder as contained in the Bidding Documents, particularly in Section II, Clauses of Instruction to Bidders (ITB).

Bids in excess of Php500 will be automatically rejected in bid opening.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using a non-discretionary "pass/fail" criterion, as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act (RA) 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act".

Bidding is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, partnerships, or organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest in outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines.

The Bids Secretariat shall issue a complete set of Bidding Documents to interested bidders upon submission of Letter of Intent and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Ten Thousand (PhP 10,000.00) Pesos to the University Cashier.

The schedule of bids activities is as follows:

Date	Activities
Sept. 7, 2012	Pre-procurement Conference
Sept. 8 to 21, 2012	Advertisement in newspaper / Agreement duration and Posting on the Philippine and USEP BAC website
Sept. 22, 2012	Pre-Bid Conference / 10:00 AM
Sept. 22, 2012	Issue Tracking Office, University Avenue, USEP Obrero, Davao City
Sept. 10 to 28, 2012	Pre-qualification, submission of Letter of Intent and submission of bidding documents, Interested bidders to purchase
Sept. 29, 2012	Opening of bids / 10:00 AM / Opening of bids shall immediately follow
Sept. 29, 2012	Evaluation of bids, Post-Qualification, Notice of Award
Sept. 30 to Oct. 2012	Post-qualification and clarifications if there

Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before 10:00 A.M. of September 29, 2012. Bidders may also avail of the services of a private courier/delivery service and assume responsibility and security in any of the acceptable forms and in the amount stated in ITB Clause 19.

Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders' representatives. Bid opening will be held on the Procure Office, University Avenue, USEP Obrero Campus, Davao City.

The University of the Southeastern Philippines reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders and to waive any bid as may be most advantageous to the University and to the government.

For further information, please call or see:

Sr. MARIBETH T. MINA, LPT, MPA/CE (Admin & Finance)
Dr. JUDITH C. DE LA PEÑA, MD, JD/PHYSICIAN (Health Services)
Ms. ANNA LIZA A. CAMPOS, MPA/CE (Student Affairs and Services)
Ms. MARIA VERA CRUZ-YAP, MPA/CE (Planning and Development)
University of the Southeastern Philippines
Obrero, Davao City
Tel. No. (082) 221-9765; (082) 221-0366; (082) 224-8400, loc. 107

ATTY. ANNABELLE V. MISA
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

NOTED:

ATTY. FERNANDO A. SUAREZ
SUC President

Posted in the USEP BAC website at www.usep.edu.ph
Posted in the conspicuous places in Obrero Campus, Davao City

(PIA – September 3 & 10, 2012)

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Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
CENTRAL OFFICE BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (REI)

The Department of Health, through its Central Office Bids and Awards Committee (CO BAC), invites Consulting Firms/Individual Consultants to apply for Eligibility and Shortlisting for the hereunder projects funded by the Government of the Philippines (GOP).

Name of Project	Brief Description of the Project	Type	Approved Budget for the Contract (Phil. Peso)
Hiring of Consultancy Services for Training Program on Drug Dependence for DOH-Accredited Physicians, Rehabilitation Workers and Regulatory Officers (RHDP – PhDAP) (REI-CS-DOH-07012-12)	To: (1) Conduct the Training Program on Drug Dependence specifically for Physicians, Rehabilitation Workers and Regulatory Officers; (2) Pilot test the Training Program of Rehabilitation Workers and Regulatory Officers; and (3) finalize the Training Guide and Participant's Manual and the Training Module, and (4) Finalize the Training Guide and Participant's Manual of the Training Program on Drug Dependence for Rehabilitation Workers and Regulatory Officers.	Firm	Php1,070,271.00
Conduct of Training for Peer Counselors on Breastfeeding Communication for Behavioral Impact (COMBI) – (CBC-GAB; FHB; VHS; AMAIA) (REI-CS-DOH-07010-12)	To develop the knowledge, attitude and skills of the peer counselors to provide educational and emotional support to breastfeeding mothers and to encourage the mutual learning of peer counselors, and monitoring in accordance with COMBI and the Regional and Provincial Duty Officers' Commitment	Firm	Php1,000,000.00

1. The DOH now calls for the submission of eligibility documents. Interested Consulting Firms/Individual Consultants must submit their Letter of Intent (LOI) to apply for eligibility and shortlisting for the above consulting project on or before **27 September 2012, 10:30 A.M.** at G/F Building E, CO BAC Conference Room, San Lazaro Compound, Sta. Cruz, Manila. Deadline of submission for eligibility documents shall be on the date of the opening of the Eligibility Documents. **27 September 2012, 10:30 A.M.** at G/F Building E, CO BAC Conference Room, San Lazaro Compound, Sta. Cruz, Manila. Applications for eligibility will be evaluated based on a non-discriminatory "pass/fail" criterion.
2. The CO BAC shall draw up the short list of consultants from those who have submitted eligibility documents/Expressions of Interest and have been determined as eligible in accordance with the provisions of Republic Act 9184 (RA 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act", and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary "pass/fail" criterion as specified in the IRR of R.A. 9184, and is restricted to Filipino citizens or organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest belonging to citizen of the Philippines, in accordance with Revised IRR of R.A. 9184; only bids from short listed consultants will be opened. The contract will be awarded to the Highest Rated and Responsive Bidder who was determined as such during post-qualification.

   The criteria and rating system for the evaluation of bids shall be provided in the instructions to bidders.
4. The evaluation procedure to be adopted shall be Quality Cost Based Evaluation (QCBE). Bids whose technical proposals pass the minimum technical rating of 70% shall have its financial proposals opened and evaluated.
5. Interested consultants may obtain further information from the Department of Health at the address given below from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm.
6. Consulting Firms/Individual Consultants **should download and take** the REI of the PMO/PO/ Project, (www.doh.gov.ph) or through its website at 900-02-01 to 06.

The DOH reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, to reject all Bids and may not award the contract without incurring any liability and makes no assurance that a contract shall be entered into as a result of this bidding. If the physical and economic conditions have significantly changed so as to render the project no longer economically, financially or technically feasible as determined by the DOH, if the project is no longer necessary as determined by the DOH and when the funds for the project/activity/ies have been withheld or reduced through no fault of the DOH at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

For further information, please refer to:

CO BAC SECRETARIAT
Department of Health
2/F Penu Building E, San Lazaro Compound, Sta. Cruz, Manila, 1003
Tel. No. 651-7800 Loc. 1626 / 651-7826 Telefax No. 7975775
Website: www.doh.gov.ph, Email: procurement@doh.gov.ph

Approved by:

(Sgd.) **NORBERTO V. DAVID, MD, MPH, CESO II**
Undersecretary of Health
Chairperson, CO BAC

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
CENTRAL OFFICE BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO BID

PROCUREMENT OF VARIOUS GOODS AND SERVICES

1. The Department of Health (DOH), through the Continuing Appropriations Act of 2011, intends to apply the sum for the following projects:

BI No.	Name of Contract	ABC (PhP)	Non-Refundable Fee (PhP)
2012-11-06	Procurement of Blood Bank and Laboratory Equipment	10,000,000.00	1,000.00
2012-11-07	Procurement of Various Medical and Dental Instrument and Equipment	30,000,000.00	1,000.00
2012-11-08	Procurement of Various OPD Equipment	10,000,000.00	1,000.00
2012-11-09	Procurement of Various Electromedical Equipment	10,000,000.00	1,000.00
2012-11-10	Procurement of Various Hospital Instrument and Laboratory Equipment and Supplies – Retail	5,000,000.00	1,000.00
2012-11-11	Procurement of 2-Unit Real-time SDH-Hybrid Pulse System – Retail	24,000,000.00	1,000.00

2. The DOH now invites bids for the procurement of the above-mentioned packages. Delivery of the Goods is specified as Section VI. Schedule of Requirements. Bidders must have completed within the past two (2) years:
   a. Single contract similar to the contract to be awarded and the aggregate contract amounts should be equivalent to at least fifty percent (50%) of the ABC; and
   b. The supply of those similar contracts must be equivalent to at least fifty percent (50%) of the ABC for the item/s for which bid/s is/are offered.

   The description of an eligible bidder is contained in the Bidding Documents, particularly, in Section II. Instructions to Bidders.
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using a non-discretionary "pass/fail" criterion as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act (RA) 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act".

   Bidding is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, partnerships, or organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to RA 5183 and subject to Commonwealth Act 138.

   Interested bidders may obtain further information from the Administrative Unit of the Procurement Service (CO BAC Secretariat, 2/F Building E, Department of Health, San Lazaro Compound, Rizal Avenue, Sta. Cruz, Manila and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below during 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. effective for the first day of publication.
4. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested bidders on 11 September 2012 – 25 September 2012 from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents in the amount stated above.

   It may also be downloaded from the website of the Philippine Government Electronic Procurement System (PhilGEPS) and the website of the Procuring Entity, provided that bidders who are interested to participate shall pay the non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents not later than the submission of their bids.
5. The DOH will invite to Pre-Bid conferences and the Submission and Opening of Bids of the indicated procurement activities as follows:

BI No.	Particular	Activities (Date & Time)	
		Pre-Bid Conference	Submission & Opening of Bids
2012-11-06	Procurement of Blood Bank and Laboratory Equipment	18 September 2012, 9:00 am	27 October 2012, 9:00 a.m.
2012-11-07	Procurement of Various Medical and Dental Instrument and Equipment	18 September 2012, 9:00 am	27 October 2012, 9:00 a.m.
2012-11-08	Procurement of Various OPD Equipment	18 September 2012, 10:00 a.m.	27 October 2012, 10:00 a.m.
2012-11-09	Procurement of Various Electromedical Equipment	18 September 2012, 10:00 a.m.	27 October 2012, 10:00 a.m.
2012-11-10	Procurement of Various Hospital Instrument and Laboratory Equipment and Supplies – Retail	18 September 2012, 11:00 am	27 October 2012, 11:00 am
2012-11-11	Procurement of 2-Unit Real-time SDH-Hybrid Pulse System – Retail	18 September 2012, 11:00 am	27 October 2012, 11:00 am

6. Bids must be delivered to the address stated below. All Bids must be accompanied by a bid security in any of the acceptable forms and in the amount stated below.

Form of Bid Security	Amount of Bid Security (Expressed as Percentage of the ABC)
Cash / certified manager's check / bank cashier's/treasurer's check issued and confirmed by a Universal or Commercial Bank	Twenty percent (20%)
Irrevocable letter of credit issued by a Universal or Commercial Bank: Provided, however, that it shall be confirmed or authenticated by a Universal or Commercial Bank, if issued by a foreign bank	
Bank draft / guarantee / irrevocable letter of credit issued by a Universal or Commercial Bank: Provided, however, that it shall be confirmed or authenticated by a Universal or Commercial Bank, if issued by a foreign bank	
Surety bond callable upon demand issued by a surety or insurance company duly certified by the Insurance Commission as authorized to issue such security	Fifty percent (50%)
Any combination of the foregoing	Proportionate to share of the cash / manager's check / bank cashier's/treasurer's check issued and confirmed amount of security

   Bids and bid submission in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below. Late bids shall not be accepted.
7. The DOH reserves the right to reject any Bid; to annul the bidding process; to reject all Bids and may not award the contract without incurring any liability, and makes no assurance that a contract shall be entered into as a result of the bidding when the funds for the project/activity/ies have been withheld or reduced through no fault of the DOH at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.
8. For further information, please refer to:

   CO BAC Secretariat
   Building No. E
   Department of Health
   San Lazaro Compound, Rizal Avenue
   Sta. Cruz, Manila
   Tel. Nos. 651-7800 local 1626 to 1631, 1650 to 52
   Telefax No.: 743-1670

   (Sgd.) **NORBERTO V. DAVID, MD, MPH, CESO II**
   Undersecretary of Health
   CO BAC Chairperson

(PCO – September 09, 2012)

SMCB launches its 100 days Centennial countdown

ST. MARY'S COLLEGE of Bulacan (SMCB) has just launched its 100 days countdown for its Centennial Jubilee Year today, September 3. Said countdown will culminate with a grand alumni homecoming and inauguration of 100 outstanding alumni on December 15, 2012.

The program of activities for Day 1 started at 7:30 AM with a Mass celebrated by Rev. Fr. Brent Cornejo on who gave a beautiful homily about how SMCB, founded by the Pious Congregation in 1913, has carved its niche as the only Catholic school in Bulacan. He further stressed that for the past 100 years, despite the ever-changing of so many schools in town, SMCB has always made a difference in the lives of its students because it is not only the economic growth that is nurtured but more importantly, the development of graduates with a strong moral fiber that is imbued with the core values of EXCELLENCE and SERVICE. Bulacan Board Member Atty. Enrique dela Cruz Jr., SMCB Alumni Association President, also stressed in his inspirational speech that although we are now living in an era of continuous changes, there are things that remain steadfast and will never be outdated in our lives: faith, excellence, discipline, service. These are the hallmark of true Ignatian Marian graduates, the defined attributes SMCB has worked so hard for to develop in its students these past 100 years.

S. Ma. Marisa Feliciano, RVM, school President, led other administrators and alumni events in the unveiling of the Centennial Flag and the unveiling of the Countdown Clock and Frame of Wishes. The homecoming ceremony for the two Centennial trees capped the event.

Republic of the Philippines
SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM

INVITATION TO BID

The Social Security System is inviting offers to purchase by way of sealed bids the following properties on October 9, 2012 at 2:00 PM. at the Asset Management Department, 3rd Floor SSS Bldg., East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City:

Item	Lot/Block No.	Lot Area (sqm)	TCT No.	Minimum Bid Price
Engr. Grupo, Mariles Subdivision Unit 5A Mariles, Lot with Improvement	Lot 1 - Blk 5A-41	72.00	T-317-00	P 450,000.00
Lot, Subd. Sta. Rosa Laguna with 2-storey school building, St. Rose Institute of Sta. Rosa Laguna	Lot 3 Block 3	330.0	T-747-03	P 2,310,000.00
Sta. Ana Subdi. Agusan del Norte, Butuan City	Lot 101	30.00	RT-1018	P 3,000,750.00
	Lot 102	111.273	RT-1019	P22,818,965.00
	Lot 103	76.284	RT-1020	P15,656,220.00
	Lot 105	98.170	RT-1022	P17,193,000.00

Mode of Payment : Cash Basis
Bid Deposit : 10% of Bid Offer in Cash or Manager's Check
Remaining Balance : Payable upon signing the Deed of Absolute Sale
Other Term : Sale is "As is Where is"

General Guidelines :

1. Interested bidders are enjoined to personally inspect the property.
2. The bid proposal must be accompanied by bidder's deposit equivalent to 10% of the bid price in Cash or Manager's Check in favor of the Social Security System.
3. Bid proposal must be placed in a sealed envelope with the label Acquired Assets Disposal Committee, Social Security System, East Avenue, Diliman Quezon City signed by the bidder across the flap.
4. SSS reserves the rights to reject any or all bids, or to waive any defect found therein. All awards shall be subject to the approval of the Social Security Commission whose decision shall be final and binding on all concerned.

Bid Forms and Instruction to Bidders are available at the Asset Management Department. For other information please contact the Project Managers, Engr. Balthazar Cayog and Mr. Edgar Morales at 435-3677; 435-3675.

(Sgd.) **LEONIDO M. BALUYOT III**
Chairman, Acquired Assets Disposal Committee

(PCO – Sept. 9, 2012)

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
Regional Office No. IV-A
[illegible]

NOTICE OF FILING OF OPPOSITION FOR LABOR EMPLOYMENT PERMIT (LEP)

Notice is hereby given that the following companies/employers have filed with this Regional Office applications for Alien Employment Permits:

	Name and Address of Company Employer	Name and Nationality of Foreign National	Position and Brief Description of Activities
1.	[illegible]	Mr. Narayan Das, Indian	Production Manager
2.	[illegible]	Mr. Jae Hong Kwon, Korean	Production Supervisor / Production Manager
3.	[illegible]	Mr. Shinsuke Mizuno, Japanese	Business Manager

If you have any information/objection to the above-mentioned applications, please communicate with the Regional Director.

ALEX C. MILA
OIC-Regional Director

To avail of free job clearing, placement, and employment assistance services, visit the Public Employment Service Office (PESO) or log on to www.peso.dole.gov

(PCO – Sept. 9, 2012)

MAY TRABAHO

You are now checking out more job opportunities in INQUIRER.blog

Anywhere, Anytime with the Job Market badge at [illegible]

JOB Market

UBAY WATER SERVICE COOPERATIVE
Bood, Ubay, Bohol
Telefax (038) 513-5806
NON VAT REG. TIN 004-913-107-000

THE UBAY WATER SERVICE COOPERATIVE (UWASCO) OF UBAY, BOHOL IS SOLICITING PROPOSALS FOR A FILTRATION SYSTEM (FOR SURFACE WATER) TO BE INSTALLED (WASTE) IN UBAY SUBJECT TO THE FOLLOWING REQUIREMENTS:

1. Dependable output of 2,000 cubic meters per day base at raw water turbidity condition of 51 mg/l or less
2. Meet the projected parameters required by PNSDW for water quality
3. Low operating & maintenance cost
4. Spare parts available locally
5. Proposal should state the cooling estimate and time frame.
6. Bid bond amount should be 1% of the bid price.
7. Proven track record.

All proposals shall be kept strictly confidential.

Interested parties may submit their proposals on or before September 15, 2012 to:

THE MANAGER
UBAY WATER SERVICE COOPERATIVE
BOOD, UBAY, BOHOL
Email: uwasco.ubay@gmail.com
Telefax: (038) 513-5806

(PCO – September 2nd & 9th)

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Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
BAGUIO GENERAL HOSPITAL & MEDICAL CENTER
Baguio City
(074) 442-9178 loc. 301, 422-2187 Telefax: (074) 442-8187

INVITATION TO BID

No. 2012-009

1. The BAGUIO GENERAL HOSPITAL & MEDICAL CENTER (BGHMC), through the GAA and Hospital Operating Fund for the year 2012 intends to apply the sum of FORTY MILLION PESOS (Php 40,000,000.00) being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) for the procurement of Various Medical Equipment, Furniture & Fixtures, Computer Equipment & Software, Motor Vehicle & Other Transportation Equipment.

Lot Number	Lot Item	Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC)	Cost of Bid Documents
Lot 1	Medical Equipment	Php 30,000,000.00	Php 10,000.00
Lot 2	Furniture, Fixtures & Casework	Php 5,000,000.00	Php 5,000.00
Lot 3	Computer Equipment, Other Machineries & Equipment	Php 5,000,000.00	Php 5,000.00
	TOTAL		

Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at the opening.

2. The BGHMC now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for the above stated project. Bidders should have completed within three (3) years from the date of submission and receipt of bids, a contract similar to the project. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section I of the Bidding Documents, viz:

3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criterion as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act (RA) 9184, otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act, and is restricted to Philippine citizens with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, as specified in Republic Act (RA) 8183. Only Universal Bidders who possess the eligibility class and who submit the lowest calculated bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine its responsiveness to the technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.

4. Bidding is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, partnerships, or organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines.

5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from September 10, 2012 to October 2, 2012 at the office of the Chief Medical Professional Staff (c/o Ms. Maria Teresa C. Tejada) for the total amount of Fifty Thousand Pesos (Php 50,000.00). Upon payment in full, the Bidding Documents shall be released to the prospective Bidder or his duly authorized representative.

6. The BGHMC will hold a Pre-Bid Conference on September 17, 2012, at 1:30 p.m. at the conference room, 4th floor, Administration Building, Baguio General Hospital and Medical Center, Baguio City, which shall be open only to all prospective Bidders who have purchased the Bidding Documents.

7. Deadline for submission of Bids is on October 3, 2012 and 9:30 a.m. sharp at the BGHMC Auditorium, 4th floor, Administration Building, Baguio General Hospital and Medical Center, Baguio City. Late Bids shall not be accepted.

8. Bid Opening shall be on October 3, 2012, 10:00 a.m. at the BGHMC Auditorium, 4th floor, Administration Building, Baguio General Hospital and Medical Center, Baguio City. Bidders' representatives who choose to attend are welcome to observe.

9. The BGHMC reserves the right to reject any and all Bids, declare a failure of bidding, or not award the contract to any Bidder at any time prior to the award in accordance with Section 41 of the IRR of RA 9184, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

10. For further information, please refer to:

Maria Teresa C. Tejada
Office of the Chief Medical Professional Staff
BGHMC, Baguio City

(Sgd.) ELEANOR S. CRUZ, MD
Chief, Medical Professional Staff
Chairman, BAC

(PDI – Sept. 2, 2012)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
BAGUIO GENERAL HOSPITAL & MEDICAL CENTER
Baguio City
(074) 442-9178 loc. 301, 422-2187 Telefax: (074) 442-8187

INVITATION TO BID

No. 2012-010

1. The BAGUIO GENERAL HOSPITAL & MEDICAL CENTER (BGHMC), through the GAA and Hospital Operating Fund for the year 2012 intends to apply the sum of FORTY MILLION PESOS (Php 40,000,000.00) being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) for the procurement of Various Medical Equipment, Furniture & Fixtures, Computer Equipment & Software, Motor Vehicle & Other Transportation Equipment.

Lot Number	Lot Item	Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC)	Cost of Bid Documents
Lot 1	Medical Equipment	Php 30,000,000.00	Php 10,000.00
Lot 2	Furniture, Fixtures & Casework	Php 5,000,000.00	Php 5,000.00
Lot 3	Computer Equipment, Other Machineries & Equipment	Php 5,000,000.00	Php 5,000.00
	TOTAL		

Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at the opening.

2. The BGHMC now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for the above stated project. Bidders should have completed within three (3) years from the date of submission and receipt of bids, a contract similar to the project. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section I of the Bidding Documents, viz:

3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criterion as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act (RA) 9184, otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act, and is restricted to Philippine citizens with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, as specified in Republic Act (RA) 8183. Only Universal Bidders who possess the eligibility class and who submit the lowest calculated bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine its responsiveness to the technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.

4. Bidding is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, partnerships, or organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines.

5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from September 10, 2012 to October 2, 2012 at the office of the Chief Medical Professional Staff (c/o Ms. Maria Teresa C. Tejada) for the total amount of Fifty Thousand Pesos (Php 50,000.00). Upon payment in full, the Bidding Documents shall be released to the prospective Bidder or his duly authorized representative. The method of payment will be by cash payable to BGHMC, Cashier. The Bidding Documents shall not be released to anybody by the prospective Bidders or his authorized representative.

6. The BGHMC will hold a Pre-Bid Conference on September 17, 2012, at 1:30 p.m. at the conference room, 4th floor, Administration Building, Baguio General Hospital and Medical Center, Baguio City, which shall be open only to all prospective Bidders who have purchased the Bidding Documents.

7. Deadline for submission of Bids is on October 3, 2012 and 9:30 a.m. sharp at the BGHMC Auditorium, 4th floor, Administration Building, Baguio General Hospital and Medical Center, Baguio City. Late Bids shall not be accepted.

8. Bid Opening shall be on October 3, 2012, 10:00 a.m. at the BGHMC Auditorium, 4th floor, Administration Building, Baguio General Hospital and Medical Center, Baguio City. Bidders' representatives who choose to attend are welcome to observe.

9. The BGHMC reserves the right to reject any and all Bids, declare a failure of bidding, or not award the contract to any Bidder at any time prior to the award in accordance with Section 41 of the IRR of RA 9184, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

10. For further information, please refer to:

Maria Teresa C. Tejada
Office of the Chief Medical Professional Staff
BGHMC, Baguio City

(Sgd.) ELEANOR S. CRUZ, MD
Chief, Medical Professional Staff
Chairman, BAC

(PDI – Sept. 2, 2012)

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dti
DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO BID

The Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites Bidders to apply for and bid for the following project:

Name of the Project	Supply and Delivery of Indoor and Wayfinding and Directional Signages for the Renovation of Lobbying Mezzanine of the Board of Investments (BOI) Building
Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC)	Php 4,000,000.00
Contract Duration / Period	Forty (40) Calendar Days

Bidding shall be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using a non-discretionary "pass/fail" criterion as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act (RA) 9184, otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act.

Bidding is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, partnerships, or organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines.

Interested bidders may obtain further information from the BAC Secretariat and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders on September 11 - 25, 2012 from the address below upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of Two Thousand Pesos (Php 2,000.00).

Bids must be duly received by the BAC Secretariat at the address below on or before 10:00 a.m. on September 25, 2012. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in any of the acceptable forms and in the amount stated in the Bidding Documents.

Bid opening shall be on September 25, 2012 at 10:00 a.m. at the address below. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend. Late Bids shall not be accepted.

The DTI-BAC reserves the right to reject any and all Bids, declare a failure of bidding, or not award the contract at any time prior to contract award without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

For more information, please refer to:

Ms. Ma. Victoria Isabel G. Perez
Head, BAC Secretariat
Department of Trade and Industry
3/F Trade and Industry Bldg.
361 Sen. Gil J. Puyat Ave., Makati City
Tel. Nos. 751-3334 / 890-9500 local 2104
Telefax No. 751-3334
Email Address: bac@dti.gov.ph

(Sgd.) **ANGELINA C. PEREJANO**
Vice-Chairperson
Chairperson, DTI Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI – September 2, 2012)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Social Welfare and Development
Field Office VII
Regional Rehabilitation Center for Youth
Lahug, Cebu City
Tel. No. (032) 233-2612
Telefax No. (032) 233-2612
Website: R7.dswd.gov.ph

INVITATION TO BID

The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) Field Office VII, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites suitable bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for the following project:

Contract Title	[illegible]
Contract Duration / Period	[illegible]
Location	[illegible]
Brief Description / Scope of Work	[illegible]
Approved Budget for the Contract	[illegible]
Source of Funds	[illegible]

Prospective bidders should have completed, within three (3) years from the date of submission and receipt of bids, a contract similar to the project. The description of an eligible bidder is contained in the Bidding Documents, viz:

a. [illegible]
b. [illegible]
c. [illegible]
d. [illegible]

Bidding documents are available and a prospective bidders may purchase at a non-refundable fee in the amount of [illegible] from the address below upon payment of a non-refundable fee for the bidding documents. The Bidding Documents may also be downloaded free of charge from the website of the PhilGEPS, provided that the bidder shall pay the applicable fee for the Bidding Documents not later than the submission of their bids. Interested bidders may obtain further information from the BAC Secretariat. Bidding documents may be purchased from the BAC Secretariat starting [illegible] until [illegible].

The DSWD-FO VII reserves the right to reject any and all bids, declare a failure of bidding, or not award the contract at any time prior to contract award without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

Approved by:

(Sgd.) **YVONNE BERNADETTE ARCHIN-ZO**
BAC Chairperson
Date: [illegible], 2012

(PDI – Sept. 9, 2012)

REPUBLIKA NG PILIPINAS
KAGAWARAN NG KATAROUNGAN
PANGASIWAAN NG PAGREHISTRO NG LUPAIN
(LAND REGISTRATION AUTHORITY)
East Avenue cor. NIA Road
Quezon City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

For the Provision of CARGO FORWARDING SERVICES

The Land Registration Authority (LRA), through the FY 2012 General Appropriations Act (GAA) and Special Allotment Release Order (SARO) No. [illegible] dated [illegible], intends to apply the sum of **FIFTEEN MILLION PESOS (Php 15,000,000.00)** being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the [illegible] for the provision of cargo forwarding services for the LRA Central Office, East Avenue corner NIA Road, Diliman, Quezon City and Regional Offices. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall automatically be rejected at the opening.

The Land Registration Authority (LRA) now invites eligible bidders for the provision of **CARGO FORWARDING SERVICES**. The expected contract duration is from **November 01, 2012 – December 31, 2012**, renewable for one (1) year subject to availability of funds and/or until the said funding has been exhausted.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criterion as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part-A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184, otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act, and is restricted to Filipino citizens with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, as specified in Republic Act (RA) 8183. Only Universal Bidders who possess the eligibility class and who submit the lowest calculated bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine its responsiveness to the technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.

Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the Land Registration Authority and inspect the Bidding documents at the address given below from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders on **September 11 – 25, 2012** from the address below upon payment of a non-refundable Fee in the amount of **THREE THOUSAND PESOS only (PHP 3,000.00)**. The method of payment will be in cash basis. The Bidding Documents shall be released personally to the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.

The Land Registration Authority will hold a **Pre-Bid Conference**, open only to all interested parties who have purchased the Bidding Documents at the 4th floor, Conference Room I, Building, Commission on Filipino Language, East Avenue, Quezon City, on **September 12, 2012**.

Submission and opening of eligibility requirements and bids shall be at the Conference Room, 4th floor, LRA Building at 10 a.m. on September 26, 2012. Bidders must be submitted personally by the bidder or his authorized representative and accompanied by a Bid Security in the form and amount indicated in the Bidding Documents. **Late Bids shall not be accepted.**

The Land Registration Authority reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

For further information, please refer to:

ROMMEL G. INGUSAN
Head, Secretariat, BAC-PO/BO
LRA, East Ave. cor. NIA Road, Quezon City
(632) 925-16-56 loc. 6610
(632) 925-16-56 loc. 6610
Telefax No. (632) 920-9271

(Sgd.) **ROBERT-HOMAR P. LEYNES-NAL, CESO II**
Deputy Administrator/Chairman
LRA Bids and Awards Committee on
Procurement of Goods, Supplies and Materials
Land Registration Authority
East Ave. cor. NIA Road
BAC Secretariat Telefax No. 920-9271

(PDI – Sept. 2, 2012)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
BAGUIO GENERAL HOSPITAL & MEDICAL CENTER
Baguio City
(074) 442-9178 loc. 301, 422-2187 Telefax: (074) 442-8187

INVITATION TO BID

No. 2012-002

1. The BAGUIO GENERAL HOSPITAL & MEDICAL CENTER (BGHMC), through the GAA and Hospital Operating Fund for the year 2012 intends to apply the sum of ONE MILLION SEVEN HUNDRED THOUSAND PESOS (Php 1,700,000.00) being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) for the supply of Various Drugs & Medicines.

Lot Number	Lot Item	Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC)	Cost of Bid Documents
Lot 01	Drugs Acting on the Nervous System	Php 171,000.00	Php 10,000.00
Lot 02	Anesthetics, Antidotes, Antiepileptics, Antiparkinsonism Drugs, Pain Relief and Psychotropics	Php 1,700.00	10,000.00
Lot 03	Antihistamines, Drugs Affecting Respiratory System	Php 1,700.00	10,000.00
Lot 04	Drugs acting on the Cardiovascular System	Php 1,700.00	10,000.00
Lot 05	Anticoagulants	Php 34,000.00	10,000.00
Lot 06	Antihypertensives	Php 1,700.00	10,000.00
Lot 07	Diuretics	Php 1,700.00	10,000.00
Lot 08	Vitamins, Drugs Affecting Blood	Php 1,700.00	10,000.00
Lot 09	Drugs Affecting Uterus	Php 1,700.00	10,000.00
Lot 10	Antacids and Antiulcerants	Php 1,700.00	10,000.00
Lot 11	Laxatives	Php 1,700.00	10,000.00
Lot 12	Bronchodilators and Drugs	Php 1,700.00	10,000.00
Lot 13	Hormones and Antidiabetics	Php 1,700.00	10,000.00
Lot 14	Corticosteroids	Php 1,700.00	10,000.00
Lot 15	Drugs acting on the Kidneys	Php 1,700.00	10,000.00
Lot 16	Medicine acting upon Antimalarials, Anti-ameobic and Cytotoxic Drugs	Php 1,700.00	10,000.00
Lot 17	Vaccines and Antitoxins	Php 1,700.00	10,000.00
Lot 18	Diagnostic Agents, Radiopharmaceuticals and Biological Products	Php 1,700.00	10,000.00

Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at the opening.

2. The BGHMC now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for the above stated project. Bidders should have completed within three (3) years from the date of submission and receipt of bids, a contract similar to the project. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section I of the Bidding Documents, viz:

3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criterion as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act (RA) 9184, otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act, and is restricted to Filipino citizens with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, as specified in Republic Act (RA) 8183. Only Universal Bidders who possess the eligibility class and who submit the lowest calculated bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine its responsiveness to the technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.

4. Bidding is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, partnerships, or organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines.

5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from September 10, 2012 to October 2, 2012 at the office of the Chief Medical Professional Staff (c/o Ms. Maria Teresa C. Tejada) for the total amount of Fifty Thousand Pesos (Php 50,000.00). Upon payment in full, the Bidding Documents shall be released to the prospective Bidder or his duly authorized representative. The method of payment will be by cash payable to BGHMC, Cashier. The Bidding Documents shall not be released to anybody by the prospective Bidders or his authorized representative.

6. The BGHMC will hold a Pre-Bid Conference on September 17, 2012, at 1:30 p.m. at the conference room, 4th floor, Administration Building, Baguio General Hospital and Medical Center, Baguio City, which shall be open only to all prospective Bidders who have purchased the Bidding Documents.

7. Deadline for submission of Bids is on October 3, 2012 and 9:30 a.m. sharp at the BGHMC Auditorium, 4th floor, Administration Building, Baguio General Hospital and Medical Center, Baguio City. Late Bids shall not be accepted.

8. Bid Opening shall be on October 3, 2012, 10:00 a.m. at the BGHMC Auditorium, 4th floor, Administration Building, Baguio General Hospital and Medical Center, Baguio City. Bidders' representatives who choose to attend are welcome to observe.

9. The BGHMC reserves the right to reject any and all Bids, declare a failure of bidding, or not award the contract to any Bidder at any time prior to the award in accordance with Section 41 of the IRR of RA 9184, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

10. For further information, please refer to:

Maria Teresa C. Tejada
Office of the Chief Medical Professional Staff
BGHMC, Baguio City

(Sgd.) ELEANOR S. CRUZ, MD
Chief, Medical Professional Staff
Chairman, BAC

(PDI – Sept. 2, 2012)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

The public is hereby notified that **MR. ANTONIO B. NOLA, JR.**, whose photograph appears above, is no longer connected with WORKLINE SERVICES, INC. since July 16, 2011. The company will not honor any transaction made in its name by this individual beyond said date. Please refrain therefore from transacting or executing any business with this person.

WORKLINE SERVICES, INC. MANAGEMENT

(PDI – September 9, 2012)

NOTICE OF LOSS

I, Reynaldo J. Calpo, Filipino, of legal age, residing at Unit 1218, Tower 5, Kingswood Condominium, 361 Vito Cruz Extension, Brgy. La Paz, Makati City, wishes to announce the loss of my Certificate of Membership No. 4049 at the Philippine Columbian Association located at Plaza Dilao, Paco, Manila.

This publication notice is intended to bring the incident to public knowledge in order for me to request the Philippine Columbian Association to issue a new Membership Certificate in lieu of the lost one.

(PDI – Sept. 3, 4, 5 & 6, 2012)

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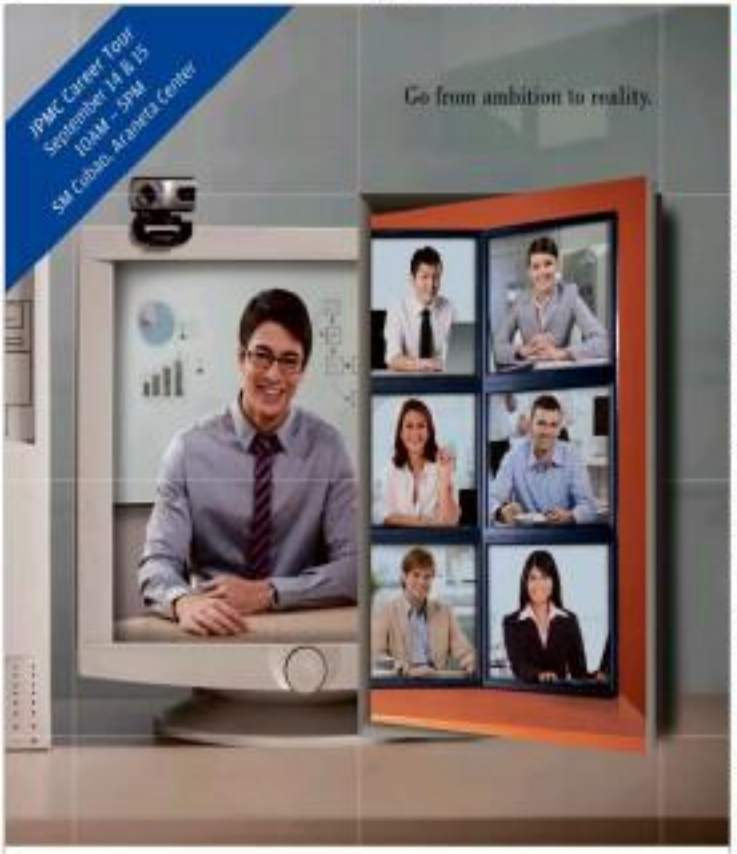

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- Answer internal and external customer inquiries via telephone calls, fax and electronic media; verify and research existing customer accounts and process transactions for client companies through various customer service systems; provide knowledge and assistance to new and existing clients

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Open Forum with Washington SyCip at Entrep Summit: Generations

THE JUNIOR CHAMBER INTERNATIONAL of Manila (JCI Manila) will be holding its 5th Annual Entrepreneurs' Summit entitled "Entrep Summit: Generations" this coming September 15, 2011 at the Asian Institute of Management.

Entrep Summit: Generations will be a whole day conference on family business and the family business and will feature notable speakers as well as an open Forum where SGV & Co. founder Washington SyCip will answer questions about family businesses asked by the participants.

Participants will gain valuable insights as they listen to Prof. Judy Ang, Dean of success de Manila University's John Gokongwei's School of Management and family Governance expert Prof. Jinky Mercado speak about sustaining the family businesses, succession planning and the basics of Family Governance.

In addition, very successful family business founders and their children such as Roberto "Bobby" Claudio Jr. and son Roberto "Toby" Claudio Jr. of Toby's Sports; William Belicard daughter Gwendell Belicard Wilcox Builders Depot will also share their experiences in their family businesses, audience will have the chance to ask questions as well.

Admission price is P2,400.00 inclusive of lunch, and tickets can be bought at any SM Tickets outlet at all SM Malls or online at smtickets.com. Student discounts available. Schools, professional organizations and other groups who want to get tickets in bulk, or those interested in sponsoring the event may call the hotline: +63 917 811 2877.

Proceeds from Entrep Summit 2012 will go to the community affairs initiatives of JCI Manila, which include its D.A.R.E to Care outreach program and Field of Dreams sports development program for underprivileged youth in the Smokey Mountain community in Tondo, and its Ophie Bermejo Boost disaster response program.

To find out more about Entrep Summit 2012, please visit Entrep Summit's facebook page at http://www.facebook.com/ Entrepsummit to get event updates as they come in.

About JCI Manila

Junior Chamber International (JCI) is the leading global network of young active citizens with 200,000 members worldwide. The JCI Manila chapter, formerly known as the Manila Jaycees, is Asia's first and premier leadership development organization, formed in 1947 to channel the energies and idealism of post World War II Filipino youth into projects that create positive change in the community to create many of the country's top business and government leaders in its membership roster through the decades, and JCI Manila was instrumental in starting the first JCI chapters in the Philippines as well as those in Japan, India, Sri Lanka, Singapore, Malaysia, Hong Kong, Taiwan and Indonesia. To find out more about JCI Manila and its community development efforts, please visit the chapter's website at http://www.jcimanila.org.

For inquiries, you may contact Patrick Marcel Ty Seng or pat.tsengg@gmail.com or +63 917 576 0606.

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